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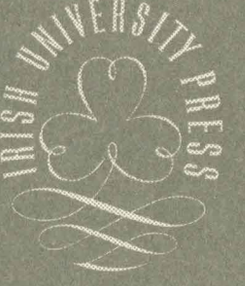
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COLONIES ANNUAL REPORTS

Colonies

General 26

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ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES

1888

Colonies General

26

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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

FORTY-SEVEN VOLUMES.

—(8.)—

COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS:

COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

Session

9 *February* 1888 — 24 *December* 1888.

VOL. LXXII.

1888.

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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

1888.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 29.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, 1888.

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1888.

[C.—5249.—26.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	1888	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports, 1886 and 1887).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - -	„	1
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report) -	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1½
24	Straits(Penang andMalacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent - -	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	„	1
27	Leeward Islands -	„	3½
28	British Guiana - -	„	2

No. 29.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5239] ; 1885 [C.—4842] ; 1884 [C.—4583] ; 1883 [C.—4193] ; 1882 [C.—4015] ; 1881 [C.—3388].]

Sir F. NAPIER BROOME to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Perth,
July 30, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, six copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1887, together with copy of the usual report thereon by the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Sir Malcolm Fraser, K.C.M.G.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. NAPIER BROOME.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c.

REPORT on BLUE BOOK for 1887.

From the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY to His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 28, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, a report on the Blue Book of Western Australia for the year 1887.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MALCOLM FRASER,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir F. Napier Broome, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT.

1.—*Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.*

The Colonial law under which public revenue was collected remained untouched, and other sources of supply continued under the same conditions as previously.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

2.—*Treasury Returns—Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue for 1887 amounted to 377,903*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*; this, with the balance to credit of 83,418*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* on the 1st January 1887, gave an available total of 461,322*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* for the year, but the actual receipts were 10,760*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* below those of the previous year, 1886.

3.—*Expenditure.*

Expenditure for the year rose to 456,897*l.* 17*s.*, being 62,222*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* increase over 1886. A very large sum went to meet expenses of developing the Kimberley district, and for various public works of utility which had not been provided for by loan.

4.—*Military Expenditure.*

The cost for the year of the volunteer department was 3,577*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*, and for defence purposes, 634*l.*; together a total of 4,211*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* The actual strength of the various corps was 24 officers and 616 non-commissioned officers and men—an increase of 52 over previous returns.

5.—*Public Debt*

No fresh loan was raised, and consequently the indebtedness of the Colony remained unchanged, excepting that the sinking funds were increased to 59,146*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* in reduction of the Colonial debt.

6.—*Public Works, Railways, and Roads.*

The Government railways completed have a total length of over 205, and the Timber Company's lines of 51 miles; and in addition there are the Albany and Beverley line under construction by the Western Australian Land Company of 244 miles, and the Midland Railway, from Guildford to the Greenough, under survey and partly under construction, of 290 miles; both these lines are being constructed under the land grant system.

Other public works were vigorously prosecuted, as shown by the returns, besides which the district boards received more than 20,000*l.* for the repair and up-keep of roads and bridges.

7.—*Population.*

The estimated population on 31st December 1887 was 42,488, an increase of nearly 3,000 during the year.

8.—*Imports and Exports.*

	£
The Imports were valued at - -	832,213
The Exports were valued at - -	604,656

The total Customs duties on imports and exports amounted to 170,971*l.*

9.—*Shipping.*

	Tonnage.
266 vessels, sailing and steam, entered inwards in 1887 - - -	252,323
248 vessels, sailing and steam, entered outwards in 1887 - - -	240,527

10.—*Education.*

The average number of children of both sexes attending the Government schools was 2,508; at the assisted schools, 1,092; total, 3,600. But the total number of scholars was 3,287 and 1,386 respectively, in all 4,673, showing an increase of 165 over the same returns for 1886. The cost per head was, in the Government schools, 3*s.* 2¾*d.* less, and in the assisted schools 11*s.* 6*d.* less, than for 1886.

11.—*Criminal Statistics.*

There is nothing particular to remark under this head. On the last day of the year there remained on the record only 158 of the convicts sent out to the Colony. Of these 61 were probation and re-convicted men on public works, and 1 in hospital. The remainder of the 158, except 3 lunatics, were either on ticket-of-leave, or conditional release holders.

12.—*Agriculture.*

The estimated average of cultivated land was 105,582 acres, an increase of 19,236 acres over 1886.

The increase of stock was satisfactory:—

	1886.	1887.
Horses - - - -	38,360	41,100
Cattle - - - -	88,254	93,541
Sheep - - - -	1,809,071	1,909,940
Pigs - - - -	24,655	23,627
Goats - - - -	5,301	6,171

showing a good increase in all classes except pigs.

13.—*Legislation.*

The following statutes were passed by the Legislature:—

No 1.—An Act to give the Commissioner of Railways power to appoint and dismiss certain classes of railway servants.

No. 2.—An Act to repeal the 50th Victoriæ, No. 21, being an Act which imposed a duty upon gold.

No. 3.—An Act for the establishment of a copyright register.

No. 4.—An Act to authorise the construction of the Bunbury Railway.

No. 5.—An Act to amend the law in respect of the employment of prisoners sentenced to hard labour.

No. 6.—An Act to amend and extend "The Inquiries into Wrecks Ordinance, 1864."

No. 7.—An Act to amend the law relating to documentary evidence.

No. 8.—An Act to regulate the sale of butterine and like substances.

No. 9.—An Act to prevent the bringing of spirituous or fermented liquors on board Her Majesty's ships, and the aiding any officer, seaman, or marine to desert therefrom.

No. 10.—An Act to amend "The Small Debts Ordinance, 1863."

No. 11.—An Act to authorise the construction of the Clackline-Newcastle Railway.

No. 12.—An Act to provide for the payment to the Colonial Treasurer of fees received by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

No. 13.—An Act to further amend "The Bills of Sale Act, 1879."

No. 14.—An Act to empower coroners to make inquiry into the causes of fires.

No. 15.—An Act for the amendment of "The Postage Stamp Ordinance, 1854."

No. 16.—An Act for the relief of innkeepers.

No. 17.—An Act to amend "The Building Act, 1884."

No. 18.—An Act to further amend "The Pearl Shell Fishery Regulation Acts, 1873 and 1875."

No. 19.—An Act to provide for the payment of certain additional and unforeseen expenses in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven, over and above the estimates for that year.

No. 20.—An Act for the re-appropriation of portion of certain moneys appropriated for certain purposes by "The Loan Act, 1884."

No. 21.—An Act to confirm certain expenditure for the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.

14.—*Concluding Remarks.*

The year 1887 may be considered as one during which the Colony made a substantial advance in settlement. The extension

of the railways, the improvements which were very marked in the principal towns, the satisfactory increase in stock of various classes, and in the area of cultivated land, as well as the continued good reports from the prospectors of the auriferous lands, are matters which the colonists may be congratulated upon.

(Signed) MALCOLM FRASER,
Colonial Secretary.

Perth, 28th July 1888.

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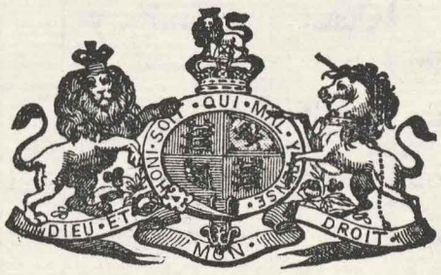
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 21.

BAHAMAS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249.—18.]

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5	New Zealand - -	„	5
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7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
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15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 1887).	„	1

No. 21.

BAHAMAS.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5071]; 1885 [C.—4842]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3642].]

Sir AMBROSE SHEA to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Nassau, N.P.
May 26, 1888.

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book for 1887. It is somewhat behind the usual time for transmission: this has been caused by an unexpected difficulty in the compilation of the returns from the out-islands. The history contained in this varies but little from the contents of the Blue Books of the past few years, and in most respects is almost a literal repetition. I shall therefore be as concise as possible in dealing with the matters referred to in the present volume.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue for 1887 was 45,869*l.*, being an excess of 1,949*l.* over that of the previous year. The expenditure was 43,955*l.* which leaves a balance of 1,914*l.* to carry to the credit of the year 1888. The increase in the revenue is not sufficient to imply any substantive improvement in the condition of the people, and is rather referable to some accidental cause, probably an excess of imports beyond the requirements of the year.

Bank.

3. I am glad to be able to report that the payment of the instalments of the debt due to the late bank are being regularly made, and there seems little doubt that the future obligations will be met with the same punctuality.

Crown Lands.

4. The Crown lands revenue has been declining for some years. The receipts from all sources for 1887 are 568*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, while the expenditure reaches 1,129*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* The charges on this fund seem to have been made on arbitrary grounds from which no inference can be drawn as to the light in which it is regarded, or how far it is held for Colonial purposes. The short-comings of the revenue are due to the poverty of the people, and partly to

BAHAMAS.

the want of a competent surveyor to supervise the working of the system. I have given instructions to enforce the law against solvent squatters, but in other cases, which are the majority, a compromise policy is alone the desirable one. I hope the proposed cultivation of the manilla fibre plant will put these people in a better position to discharge their obligations, while from the same source the general revenue will also be increased.

Salt Ponds.

5. The revenue on Salt Ponds account for 1887 was 68*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* The expenditure on this account was 59*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* The amount now at the credit of this fund is 1,598*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*

Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

6. At the beginning of the year 1887 there was at the credit of this account 4,959*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and the receipts during the year were 426*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* The payments made amounted to 2,673*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a balance of 2,711*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* at the end of 1887. The certainty that at the end of the next year a heavy claim must be made on the general revenue owing to the exhaustion of this fund, raises a serious question in view of the very limited means of the Colony.

Post Office Savings Bank.

7. The receipts on account of the Post Office Savings Bank during the year 1887 amount to 2,550*l.*, and payments were made amounting to 1,452*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* There was remitted to the Crown Agents for investment the sum of 1,200*l.* This account is in an unsatisfactory state, and I have ordered an investigation to ascertain whether it is not causing a loss to the Colony which would be a wholly illegitimate position for both interests. There are 13 branches of the Bank in the out-islands, but the great difficulty of working them, owing to the general incompetency of the officers and the risk of transmitting the money to Nassau, which must be incurred, has raised the question of the expediency of closing the greater number of these branches. The report of the committee will have an influence on the decision in this case.

Public Debt.

8. The public debt at the end of the year was 83,126*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, of which 48,126*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* was issued in the Colony and 3,500*l.* under the authority of the Crown Agents in London. Of the former 5 per cent. interest is paid on 47,526*l.* and 4½ per cent. on 600*l.* The debt contracted by the Crown Agents was for 35 years and pays 4½ per cent. interest with a sinking fund of one per cent. per annum applicable to drawings at the end of every five years. As it is believed the Colony can now borrow at 4 per cent. and

as the debt issued in the Colony can be paid off at discretion, it is proposed to ask the Legislature to make provision for this conversion. The whole debt is made a preferable charge on the revenues of the Colony.

Acts passed by Legislature.

9. There were 19 Acts passed by the Legislature in the session of the year 1887. None of them demand special attention, as they were chiefly of a routine character.

Population.

10. The population by the census of 1881 was 43,521. No discrimination has been made between the white and the coloured people. Males and females are about equal in number. The average excess of births over deaths is 750. The white population may be fairly estimated at 1,200.

Education.

11. Thirty-six schools have been established by the Board of Education. The cost for the year was 2,361*l.* 16*s.*, the number of scholars on the registers was 4,550. Grants in aid were also made to 10 schools in remote places amounting to 127*l.*, where 816 children are attending. The progress of education is fairly satisfactory, while the want of means to procure the services of better teachers is of course a great drawback to desired results. It is hoped that a small increase may be made to the education grant in the session of 1888.

12. *Church of England and other Private Schools.*—Besides the board schools 28 have been established by the Church of England where no others were found. The attendance at these schools is about 1,462. There are 48 private schools at which there are usually 1,498 pupils in attendance.

Newspapers.

13. Three newspapers are published, the "Nassau Guardian" and the "Nassau Times" semi-weekly. The third, the "Freeman" was started about a year since as the exponent of the grievances of the coloured population.

Exchange and Currency.

14. The rate of exchange on England is from 1 to 2½ per cent. premium. There is a large amount of British silver, but scarcely any gold in circulation. The legal value of the American double eagle is 4*l.* 2*s.* sterling, but for some years it passed at 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* and has consequently driven British gold away. There is a most urgent need of a local Joint Stock Bank to

BAHAMAS. regulate relative values of coin, and generally to facilitate the trade and industries of the Colony, which are now hampered and much prejudiced by the want of bank accommodation.

Weights and Measures.

15. The weights and measures in use are the old Winchester system, but import duties are levied by the imperial standard.

Imports.

16. The total amount of imports for 1887 was 189,456*l.*, of which 29,669*l.* came from the United Kingdom, 2,914*l.* from British Colonies, and 156,873*l.* from foreign countries, chiefly the United States. The greater part of the fruit grown in these islands is shipped to American ports, and the facilities for trade with that country naturally lead it in that direction. The returns of imports for 1886 were unduly increased to the extent of 27,920*l.* by including cotton and railroad-iron, value respectively 23,065*l.* and 4,920*l.* or 27,985*l.* in all, which were merely transit goods. The *bonâ fide* increase of imports over 1886 is 27,966*l.*

Exports.

17. The exports amounted to 125,464*l.*; of this 101,013*l.* was Colonial produce and 24,451*l.* the produce of other countries. This shows a decline of 3,262*l.* from the exports of 1886, while the latter were less than those of the previous year by 20,655*l.* This tendency to decline in exports is a most discouraging feature. In the small production of cotton the returns show a great falling off in the year, attributable to gales of wind and blight.

Shipping returns.

18. The following is the result of the shipping returns:—

Sailing Ships Entered.

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	271	28,765	1,883
In ballast - - -	85	7,090	514
Total - -	356	35,855	2,397

Sailing Ships Cleared.

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	254	27,665	1,873
In ballast - - -	50	3,939	323
Total - -	304	31,604	2,196

Steam Ships Entered.

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
With cargoes - - -	73	80,405	3,006
In ballast - - -	1	71	13
Total - -	74	80,476	3,019

Steam Ships Cleared.

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews
With cargoes - - -	65	76,403	2,738
In ballast - - -	8	3,400	233
Total - -	73	79,803	2,971

Agriculture.

19. The chief agricultural product is that of pine-apples, and the industry is fairly prosperous, though the returns show a smaller value by 5,091*l.* than those of 1886. The application of fertilizers in this industry has been on the whole most beneficial both as regards the quality as well as the quantity of the fruit. It is nearly all shipped to the United States.

20. Grants 828½ acres of land were made in 1887; there are now 328,592 acres under grant and 1,789,745 remain ungranted. A large part of this reserve is of but little economic value.

21. There are no mineral deposits in the Colony.

BAHAMAS.

Sponge Fishery.

22. This fishery has been attended with an average degree of success, the proceeds being 47,241*l.* as compared with 44,537*l.* in the former year. The fishery is very trying to the men engaged in it, and consequent cases of consumption are common amongst them.

Criminal Statistics.

23. The number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates during 1887 was 2,217, as against 1,798 in 1886. Of these 484 were discharged for want of prosecution by the party complaining or for want of evidence, 455 cases were dismissed on their merits, 1,244 persons were summarily convicted, and 34 were sent for trial to the Superior Courts, where judgment for the Crown was given in 23 cases.

Hospital and Insane Asylum.

24. There were in these institutions at the beginning of the year 101 patients, and during the year 234 were admitted. Of discharges there were 181, of which 111 were cured, 56 relieved, and 14 not improved. There are 10 lepers kept in a separate small house, and for the rest the diseases were not of an infectious kind. The deaths were 66.

25. There were nine lunatics admitted during the year and three discharged cured; there were four deaths.

26. These institutions are supported by an annual legislative grant, and the expense of the year was 1,677*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

Prisons.

27. There were 285 persons committed to prison in the year against 320 in 1886. The average daily number was 42·72 against 44·06 in 1886. The prison is a fine structure and is a well-conducted institution. The "mark system" is in use to effect the reduction of the term of sentence.

Meteorology.

28. The rainfall for 1887 was 79·41 inches; of this 20·07 fell in August, and 0·51 in February. This rainfall is the largest registered for 20 years, and is recorded as follows:—For January, February, March, 2·84 inches; April, May, June, 28·18 inches; July, August, September, 37·07 inches; October, November, December, 11·32 inches.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. SHEA,

Governor.

The Right Hon. Baron Knutsford,

&c. &c. &c.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 19.

BARBADOS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1888.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK, 6, NORTH BRIDGE, EDINBURGH; or
HODGES, FIGGIS & Co., 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1888.

[C.—5249—16.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - -	„	1
18	St. Helena -	„	½

No. 19.

BARBADOS.

[For previous Reports *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4842]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4404]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3388].]

Governor Sir C. C. LEES to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House,
Barbados, June 9, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1887, which has been handed to me by the Colonial Secretary, who informs me that he hopes to have the Blue Book itself ready for transmission to your Lordship by the next mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. LEES,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1887.

Taxes and Duties.

1. No alterations during the year.

Finance.

	£	s.	d
2. The balance on the 1st of January 1887 was - - -	4,131	6	11
The revenue was - - -	163,489	9	7½
Total - - -	167,620	16	6½
The expenditure for 1887 was -	154,610	16	10½
Leaving a balance of -	13,009	19	8

3. The revenue for 1887, although shown above as 163,489*l.* 9*s.* 7½*d.*, is subject to a deduction of 10,000*l.* paid into the Treasury from debentures issued under the Public Works Loan Act, 1881, Amendment Act, 1887, and of 1,204*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.* transferred from the Police Reserve Fund in the Savings Bank to the credit of the general revenue, leaving the sum of 152,285*l.* 9*s.*

o 54837. Wt. 18427.

as the net amount of revenue received from ordinary sources, and which compared with that of 1886 shows an increase of 15,999*l.* 3*s.* 9½*d.*

4. The net expenditure for the year was in reality only 141,767*l.* 12*s.* 4½*d.*, 12,843*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* having been spent in paying the liabilities of the previous year, and gives an increase of 5,138*l.* 16*s.* 3½*d.* over that of the previous year.

5. The following tables give the principal heads of revenue and expenditure as compared with the previous year:—

Revenue.

Year.	Customs.	Rum Duty.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1887 - -	92,938	26,131	*44,420	163,489
1886 - -	82,856	20,255	33,175	136,286

* Loan of 10,000*l.*

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£	£	£
1887 - -	65,648	88,962†	154,610
1886 - -	67,640	68,988	136,628

† Arrears, 12,843*l.*

6. The revenue and expenditure during the four quarters of the year were as follows:—

Quarter.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.
	£	£	£	£
First - - -	46,763	39,555	41,120	34,412
Second - -	44,719	35,235	41,432	35,847
Third - - -	36,263	31,038	30,539	35,301
Fourth - - -	35,744	30,358	41,519	31,068
Totals - -	163,489	136,286	154,610	136,628

7. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December 1887 were as follows:—

	£
Balance in the Treasury - - -	13,010
Due on account of land - - -	621
Due on loans - - - -	4,250
Total - - -	17,881

Local Revenues.

8. Local revenues are raised and the proceeds expended by the vestries of the eleven parishes of the Island.

9. Parochial revenues are mainly derived from rates laid on owners of land and houses and on profitable trades.

10. Separate rates are raised for the maintenance of roads and a tax is levied on horses, mules, asses and wheeled vehicles. The revenue derived from this source is supplemented by an annual grant from the Legislature of 5,450*l.*

11. The last returns give the following results for the year 1886–87:—

		£	£
Balance on 24th March 1886 -	Cash -	2,296	
	Arrears	10,344	
			12,640
Assessment for parochial purposes -			35,464
Assessment for highway purposes -			7,793
Miscellaneous receipts - - -			4,568
Legislative grant for highways -			5,450
Total - -			65,915

Expenditure.

12. Poor relief - - -			19,775
Other parochial expenditure -			18,136
Highways - - -			13,243
Balance - -	Cash -	£1,681	
	Arrears -	13,080	
			14,761
	Total - -		65,915

Public Debt.

13. During 1887 the public debt was increased by 10,500*l.* making a total of 30,100*l.*

Military Expenditure.

14. The expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government for military purposes in this Colony was 57,486*l.*, being an increase of 3,075*l.* over that of 1886.

Savings Bank.

15. The following table gives the number of depositors, the amount deposited, amount paid out, and amount in deposit at the close of each of the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors on 31st December.	Amount Deposited during the Year.	Amount Withdrawn during the Year.	Amount in Deposit on 31st December.
	£	£	£	£
1883 - -	5,314	37,251	30,012	48,501
1884 - -	6,231	38,960	32,358	56,543
1885 - -	6,878	42,596	39,105	61,638
1886 - -	7,290	43,938	41,995	65,289
1887 - -	7,763	62,151	51,393	77,946

16. The above shows a large increase in the deposits and payments during the year, and may be attributed to the fact that in July an Act was passed giving a Government guarantee for all amounts deposited and extending the limit to deposits from 200*l.* to 300*l.* These provisions caused a large increase in the transactions with the bank of the more well-to-do section of the community.

17. The Reserve Fund at the end of the year was 3,356*l.*, making the total funds of the bank 81,302*l.*

18. The annual return shows the following disposition of the funds:—

	£
Mortgages on landed security - -	15,561
English funds - - - -	15,075
New South Wales Stock - - -	5,895
South Australian Stock - -	7,359
Barbados Government debentures - -	26,000
Parishes, loans to - - - -	2,055
Colonial bank at deposit receipt - -	8,800
Colonial Bank at current account - -	493
Balance on hand - - - -	64
Total - - -	81,302

Post Office.

19. The following table gives the Revenue of the post office for 1887 as compared with that of previous years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Increase.
	£	£
1882 - - - -	3,326	—
1883 - - - -	3,653	327
1884 - - - -	4,086	433
1885 - - - -	4,665	579
1886 - - - -	5,749	1,084
1887 - - - -	5,766	17

20. The total expenditure of 1887 was 11,258*l.*, from which must be deducted 3,893*l.* due on account of 1886, leaving the net expenditure of 1887 at 7,365*l.*

Money Orders.

21. The number and amount of money orders issued and paid were as follows :—

Year.	Issued.		Paid.		Revenue.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	
		£		£	£
1887 - - -	7,948	44,018	5,336	12,666	359
1886 - - -	5,758	30,387	3,911	8,705	305

22. The money orders issued were distributed as follows :—

Country.	1887.		1886.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
		£		£		£		£
United Kingdom -	5,510	29,624	4,106	22,332	1,404	7,292	—	—
United States - -	1,666	12,657	929	6,091	737	6,566	—	—
British Colonies - -	772	1,737	723	1,963	49	—	—	226

Parcels Post.

23. The total number of parcels sent and received during the year amounted to 4,424, with a value of 4,849*l.*, and the duty collected therefrom for the Customs department amounted to 248*l*

24. The parcels post was extended during the year to France, Algeria, Corsica, Tunis and Italy viâ France.

Public Works.

25. The total amount spent on public works during the year was 2,381*l.*, consisting almost entirely of repairs to existing buildings.

Legislation.

26. During the year 57 Acts were passed. The most important of these are—

The Savings Bank (District Branches) Act, 1880, Amendment Act, 1887.

An Act to amend the law relating to the punishment of persons deserting their wives.

An Act to establish a system of compensation for loss and damage of postal parcels.

An Act to repeal "The Contagious Diseases Act, 1868," and all other Acts altering and amending the same.

An Act to amend the Prisons Act, 1879.

The Co-operative Factories Act, 1887.

The Colonial Secretary's and Auditor General's Offices Amalgamation Act, 1887.

The Savings Bank Act, 1873, Amendment Act, 1887.

The Civil Service Expenditure Retrenchment Act, 1887.

The Agricultural Aids Act, 1887.

The Registration Office Act, 1887.

The Libel and Defamatory Words Act, 1887.

The Colonial Seamen's Relief Act, 1887.

The Rum Duty Act, 1887.

The Prisons Discipline Act, 1887.

The Interments (Felo de se) Act.

Political Franchise.

27. There was a general election to the House of Assembly on the 18th April, and the session of 1887–88 opened on the 26th of the same month. There was no contest.

Councils and Assemblies.

28. *Executive Council.*—No changes.

29. *Executive Committee.*—No changes.

30. *Legislative Council.*—The Hon. James A. Lynch was appointed in the place of the Hon. W. H. Jones, resigned.

31. *House of Assembly.*—No changes.

Civil Establishment.

32. The Governor, Sir C. C. Lees, K.C.M.G., was absent on leave from the 2nd August to the 15th September, during which period Colonel J. E. D. Hill, the officer commanding the troops and the senior member of the Executive Council, administered the Government.

33. Mr. Eyare Hutson was appointed as Private Secretary to the Governor on the 9th March, vice Mr. R. A. E. Taylor, resigned.

34. Mr. J. K. Kirkham, Assistant Harbour Master, was appointed Harbour Master in August, vice Mr. E. G. Clawson resigned. The office of Assistant Harbour Master lapsed on Mr. Kirkham's promotion.

35. Colonel Elliott, Inspector General of Police, was absent on leave from 21st March to 13th July—Mr. H. H. Haynes, Inspector of Police, acting.

Pensions.

36. Six pensions were granted under the Police Act, 1882, amounting to 124*l.*; also five by legislative enactment, amounting to 83*l.*, and one under the Superannuation Act, 1870, amounting to 224*l.*, making a total of 441*l.*

37. Six pensions were struck off the list during the year, amounting to 316*l.*, showing a net increase of 125*l.*

Population

38. Owing to there being no registration system, correct vital statistics cannot be given. The population may be roughly set down at 180,000. The number of baptisms during the year was 7,402, and deaths 4,182, giving an increase of births over deaths of 3,220.

Education

39. *Elementary Schools.*—At the close of the year there were 197 schools of this class receiving Government aid. Of these 65 were primary, 22 combined, and 110 infant schools, with a gross average attendance of 14,392. The number of names on the rolls was 23,252. The elementary schools are of the following denominations:—Anglican, 156, with an average attendance of 10,323;

Wesleyan, 22, with an average attendance of 1,505 ; and Moravian 20, with an attendance of 2,564.

40. *Second Grade Schools.*—There were five of these schools at work during the year, with a gross attendance of 178 pupils; the largest, Combermere, having 83, and the smallest, the Pilgrim Place School, having 13 pupils.

41. *First Grade Schools.*—Harrison College, in the town, and the Lodge School, in the interior of the island, are the only two schools of this class in the island. The attendance at Harrison College at the close of the year was 151 and that at the Lodge 37. Both these schools are conducted by university men; the former having a head master and eight assistant masters, and the latter a head master and two assistant masters. There are boarding establishments attached to both schools under the direct supervision of the head masters.

42. The Queen's College, which is the only public school in the island for girls, is situated in the town, and is conducted by a head mistress, four assistant mistresses, and a music master. The number of pupils at the close of the year was 85.

43. Codrington College, which was founded in 1745, is supported by a legacy of General Codrington, administered by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and is the only collegiate institution in the West Indies, being affiliated to Durham University. The number of students at the close of the year was 20.

Ecclesiastical.

44. There are 11 parish churches in the island, 33 chapels, and two chapel schools; making a total of 46 places of worship belonging to the Church of England.

45. The ecclesiastical establishment consists of the bishop, 11 rectors, 28 curates, besides the chancellor and registrar of the diocese. The rector of St. Peter is the Archdeacon of Barbados. The rector of St. Michael is dean of St. Michael's Cathedral. The rural deans are the rectors of St. Peter, St. Philip, and Christ Church.

46. The endowment of the Church of England from the general revenue is 11,503*l.*

47. Each rector has a house and glebe, 14 of the curates have houses, and 16 receive an allowance from the vestry for house rent.

48. Allowances are made from the general revenue to other denominations as follows:—

	£	
Roman Catholic - -	50	per annum.
Wesleyans - - -	700	„
Moravians - - -	400	„

Imports and Exports.

49. The values of the imports and exports for the last six years were as follows :—

Year.	Imports.	Increase.	Decrease.	Exports.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1882 - - -	1,162,866	—	—	1,193,295	—	—
1883 - - -	1,155,341	—	7,525	1,141,133	—	52,162
1884 - - -	1,156,229	888	—	1,318,878	177,745	—
1885 - - -	890,690	—	265,539	1,003,893	—	314,985
1886 - - -	863,491	—	27,199	739,911	—	263,982
1887 - - -	983,187	119,696	—	1,063,397	323,486	—

50. The direction of trade was as follows :—

Country.	Imports from		Exports to	
	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom - - -	360,531	302,763	142,963	190,240
United States - - -	367,118	321,994	588,481	295,193
British North America - -	92,134	90,810	162,015	89,261
West Indies and British Guiana -	60,098	66,413	60,098	154,243
Calcutta - - - -	14,595	38,699	—	—
Brazil - - - -	57,215	546	55	7
Other countries - - -	31,495	47,266	109,785	10,967
Total - -	983,187	863,491	1,063,397	739,911

51. The nature of the imports and exports from and to each country was much the same as those of previous years.

52. The export trade may be divided as follows :—

	£
Staple (sugar, molasses, rum) - -	841,179
Other produce - - -	8,265
Re-exports - - - -	213,953
Total - -	1,063,397

BARBADOS.

Shipping.

53. The following table shows the number and tonnage of vessels cleared and entered during 1887 as compared with 1886 ;—

Cleared.

Country to which.	Number.				Tonnage.			
	Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.	
	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.
Great Britain - -	22	35	19	24	8,397	14,490	26,266	34,204
United States - -	125	88	38	23	47,462	31,243	37,596	22,804
British North America	95	97	—	—	19,251	19,343	—	—
W. Indies and British Guiana - - -	726	702	221	211	65,993	54,055	291,707	272,864
Other countries - -	36	39	7	1	5,278	6,844	8,077	837
Total - - -	1,004	961	285	259	146,381	125,975	363,646	330,709

Entered.

Country from whence,	Number.				Tonnage.			
	Sailing.		Steam.		Sailing.		Steam.	
	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.
Great Britain - -	31	32	120	116	10,256	10,443	172,475	160,556
United States - -	115	100	48	31	35,159	30,067	49,564	28,789
British North America	110	100	—	—	17,117	16,861	—	—
W. Indies and British Guiana - - -	619	627	116	74	38,904	34,347	137,258	95,042
Other countries - -	139	105	2	38	53,426	36,992	1,202	46,461
Total - - -	1,014	964	286	259	154,862	128,710	360,499	330,848

54. From the above it will be seen that a greater number of vessels with a corresponding larger tonnage cleared and entered in 1887 than in 1886, and that while the number and tonnage of vessels entering from and clearing for Great Britain was less than in 1886, the number and tonnage of those from and for the United States was considerably greater.

55. The total number of vessels entered and cleared with cargoes was 2,243, with a tonnage of 854,105 tons; the number in ballast was 346, with a tonnage of 171,283 tons.

Manufactures, &c.

56 The number of sugar works in the island is about 500.

57. There are some oil wells in the parish of St. Andrew, which yielded in 1887 18 barrels of crude oil, valued at 54*l.*

58. Fish is to be obtained in abundance at certain seasons of the year, but there are no fisheries, except a whaling station at Holetown, which produced oil to the value of 51*l.* during 1887.

59. There is also a manufactory for making matches, and an earthenware pottery.

Agriculture.

60. The number of acres of land under cultivation was 100,000 acres. The total produce was sugar, 68,872 hogsheads, rum, 355,205 gallons, showing an increase of 23,104 hogsheads and 85,133 gallons respectively over that of 1886.

Criminal Statistics.

61. The total number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates during the year was 3,488, as against 4,389 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 901.

62. *Apprehensions and Summonses.*—The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 9,792, being 743 less than 1886.

63. The cases were disposed of as follows:—

Convicted - - - -	6,842
Discharged - - - -	647
Acquitted - - - -	2,196
Committed - - - -	107
Total - -	9,792

64. The summary convictions were divided as follows:—

	1887.	1886.	Average for five years 1883–7.
Offences against the person - -	2,266	2,290	2,446
Prædial larceny - - - -	884	1,329	1,037
Other offences against property - -	556	784	671
Other offences - - - -	3,136	3,379	3,693
Total - - -	6,842	7,782	7,847

65. From the above it will be seen that the number of summary convictions is 946 less than that of the previous year, and 1,005 less than the average of the last five years.

66. The greatest decrease is noticeable under the head of prædial larceny, the number of convictions under that head being 445 less than in 1886 and 153 less than the average of the last five years.

67. The penalties imposed on summary conviction were as follows:—

Fines - - - -	4,494
Imprisonment in lieu of fine - -	1,089
Peremptory imprisonment - -	840
Whipping - - - -	162
Bound over, &c. - - -	257
Total - - -	6,842

68. *Superior Courts.*—118 cases or 5 less than in 1886 were tried in the superior courts during the year, with the following results:—

Judgment for the Crown - -	81
„ „ prisoner - -	18
Fell through for want of prosecution -	19
	118

69. The 81 convictions were divided as follows:—

	1887.	1886.	Average for five years.
Offences against the person - -	27	33	42
Prædial larceny - - - -	—	—	—
Other offences against property - -	43	31	47
Other offences - - - -	11	10	11
Total - - -	81	74	100

70. Of the 81 convictions there were only 7 of a serious nature, viz., 1 for manslaughter, 2 for rape, and 4 for robbery with violence.

Gaols and Prisoners.

71. Glendairy, which is situated about a mile and a half from Bridgetown, is, with the exception of one at the Leper Asylum, used only for leper criminals and inmates convicted for breaches of discipline, the only prison in the island.

72. The number of persons committed to prison in 1887 was males 1,252, females 1,313, juveniles 59, making a total of 2,624, or 778 less than the previous year.

73. Of the 2,624 committals, 76 were for debt, 314 for safe custody, and 2,234 for punishment.

74. The daily average was, in prison 312, on the sick list 4·94.

75. During the year there were 16 deaths, 7 male, 1 female, and 8 infants.

76. The net profits of male convict labour for the year was 278*l.*, of which 271*l.* was derived from the cooperage. The estimated value of male convict labour outside the prison on various public works is 542*l.*, and inside the prison from the bakery 921*l.*

77. The estimated value of female labour is 217*l.*

Meteorological.

78. Observations were taken at Joes River House, in the parish of St. Joseph, at an elevation of 430 feet above sea level.

79. The mean temperature of the air at Joes River was 76·9°; the highest reading, 88°, occurring in October, and the lowest, 67°, in January and December.

80. The rainfall amounted to 73·59 inches, distributed over 180 days.

81. There were thunderstorms in May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December.

82. The direction of the wind was as follows:—From N.E. 274 days, from S.E. 86 days, from S.W. two days, and from N.W. three days.

83. The average force of the wind was 10 miles an hour.

Health.

84. The health of the island was excellent throughout the year.

(Signed) C. C. KNOLLYS,
Colonial Secretary's Office, Colonial Secretary.
9th June 1888.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 31.

BASUTOLAND.

REPORT OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER FOR 1887.

(*In continuation of* [C.—5238] *September* 1887.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty
1888.

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HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1888.

[C.—5249.–28.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	,,	2
3	Gambia - - -	,,	1
4	Victoria - - -	,,	2½
5	New Zealand - -	,,	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	,,	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	,,	1
11	Straits Settlements - -	,,	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands	1887	2½
15	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
16	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
17	Trinidad - - -	,,	1½
18	Bermuda - - -	,,	1
19	St. Helena - -	,,	1
20	Barbados - -	,,	1
21	Lagos (Sanitary Report) -	,,	1
22	Bahamas - - -	,,	½
23	Labuan - - -	,,	½
24	Malta - - -	,,	1½
25	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,	
26	St. Vincent - -	,,	½
27	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	,,	1
28	Leeward Islands - -	,,	3½
29	British Guiana - -	,,	2
30	Western Australia -	,,	½
	Falkland Islands - -	,,	

No. 31.

BASUTOLAND.

Sir HERCULES ROBINSON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Cape Town,
August 22, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward for your information the Resident Commissioner's Report on Basutoland for the year ended 30th June last, which shows that the progress made has been, on the whole, highly satisfactory.

2. There have been inter-tribal disputes during the year, but no fighting, and no differences of any consequence have arisen between the Basutos and their neighbours, the burghers of the Orange Free State.

3. The drink traffic, which, until within the last few years, was the curse of the country, has been entirely suppressed; and through the co-operation of the Free State Authorities an effectual check has been given to smuggling and other border irregularities.

4. The harvest has been abundant, trade has improved, the revenue has increased, and there is little serious crime throughout the country.

5. The Mission schools of various denominations are doing good work; and an undenominational school established under the auspices of one of the Chiefs has proved so efficient as to be able to claim a Government grant in aid.

6. The Chiefs one and all now appear cordially to support the British officials in the measures adopted by them for the good government of the country, and the maintenance of order on the Basuto Free State border.

7. When it is borne in mind that only four years have elapsed since direct Imperial rule was resumed over the territory, the results to which Sir Marshall Clarke and his officers can already point are very creditable to them. The condition of the country when it was taken over by them was deplorable. The Basutos had just emerged from a successful rebellion against the Cape Government, and were torn asunder by internal dissensions, whilst the whole fabric of authority had broken down.

The task of restoring the structure peacefully seemed well-nigh hopeless. Sir Marshall Clarke had to revert to moral force where physical force had failed. It seemed an attempt to govern by prestige when prestige was gone. Nevertheless, notwithstanding these unpromising conditions, the experiment so far has been most encouraging. There is no doubt still cause for anxiety as regards the future. When the paramount Chief Letsie, who is

old and feeble, passes away, there may possibly be serious differences respecting the succession. But it is to be hoped that those difficulties, if they arise, may be overcome by an exercise of the same patience and sound judgment which have achieved such a large measure of administrative success in the last four years.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON,
High Commissioner.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Resident Commissioner's Office, Basutoland,
Maseru, July 28, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following Report on British Basutoland for the year ended 30th June 1888, covering Reports from—

(1.) The Accountant.
(2.) Assistant Commissioner, Berea.
(3.) Do. do. Leribe.
(4.) Do. do. Mafeteng.
(5.) Do. do. Maseru.
(6.) Do. do. Quithing.
(7.) The Medical Officer.

The progress therein recorded appears, on the whole, satisfactory.

Her Majesty's Jubilee, postponed from June, was celebrated at Maseru on the 19th and 20th July, 1887. The attendance, European and Basuto, was large and representative. An address of congratulation was sent to the Queen by the paramount Chief Letsie on behalf of the tribe.

Early in July, in consequence of the past disturbance between the Chiefs Masupha and Peete Ramanella, I thought it well that a garden boundary should be defined between the ground cultivated by the subjects of each Chief. A Pitso was held on the spot, at which the Chief Lerothodi and others, representing Letsie, Masupha, represented by his principal sons and councillors, Ramanella and his sons, and many other Chiefs, were present.

The subject was discussed for two days, after which a line was marked by Lerothodi and approved by me. It was after some demur accepted by Masupha, notwithstanding which, Peete's rights have since been infringed on by some of the sons of Masupha. As these trespasses are attributable to family dissensions, as the line defined by Lerothodi is unquestioned and the disputants show an increased willingness to talk over their differences, I have so far abstained from further interference, though urged thereto by Letsie.

In October I visited a little explored part of the Malutis, and found the mountains more populated than I expected. It will be advisable by degrees to bring the various sections of tribes living

between Matatiele, Natal and Witzies Hoek, under closer Government supervision. BASUTOLAND.

During the past year there were, and still are, disputes between Chiefs, some sufficiently serious, but there has been no fighting.

The drink traffic has been suppressed, and considering the extent of border there is little smuggling. For this we are indebted to the assistance we receive from the Orange Free State authorities, who continue to render us much aid in checking irregularities on the border.

A few of the Chiefs seem unable to shake off their old habits of intemperance, but they get brandy by stealth, and offer no definite resistance to the police employed on preventive service.

Our relations with surrounding States and Territories have been satisfactory. No disputes of any consequence between Basuto and neighbouring burghers have been reported.

The beaconing of the boundary line between the Caledon River and Cornet Spruit set many vexed questions at rest.

It is now under consideration to erect a fence along this portion of the border. The scheme has met with your Excellency's approval subject to certain conditions, and has been sanctioned by a resolution of the Free State Volksraad.

A question has lately been raised as to the identity of the Caledon River described in the Treaty of Aliwal North as forming a portion of the northern boundary of Basutoland. This is now being investigated.

The Extradition Treaty agreed to between your Excellency, representing Her Majesty's Government, and the President of the Orange Free State, came into force on the 17th October 1887. This convention, supplemented by the law passed by the Volksraad legalizing the trial of residents in the Orange Free State for offences committed in Basutoland, together with that facilitating the attendance of witnesses from the Orange Free State at Basutoland Courts, is well calculated to secure the more complete prevention of crime.

The past harvest has been good. Much wheat was reaped. Improved seed distributed by Government during the last two years is reported by some of the traders to have had a perceptible result.

Trade during the last six months shows an improvement. The market for grain, the staple production of the country, is limited. Kimberley is largely supplied from Basutoland; but the competition from the Orange Free State and Western Province is keen. The tariff imposed on grain, other than that grown in the Free State, entering the Transvaal has practically closed to us the market offered by the Gold Fields. It is estimated that Basutoland trade has been affected this year to the extent of over 20,000*l.* by this differential tariff.

There has been a large expenditure on road-making during the year. The autumn rains did much damage to the hill-skirting main roads; but each year there ought to be fewer repairs

BASUTOLAND.

necessary owing to the quantity of permanent work done. Many bye roads have also been newly opened or repaired.

The road to Ongeluk's Nek is being proceeded with. As the Cape Colonial Government concurs with me on the advantage to be derived from opening the route from Basutoland to Griqualand East, I have no doubt but that a road will be constructed on the side of the Colony to meet our road on the boundary.

A waggon pont has been placed on the Caledon River at Maseru, and a low rate of ferryage fixed, with a view to encourage traffic. Ferry boats have also been placed on the Caledon, Thlotsi, and Orange Rivers.

A court-house has been purchased at Maseru (a hut formerly served the purpose).

The building when not required for a court-house is used as a schoolroom for the European children at Maseru. Adjoining rooms are fitted up as a museum, reading, and writing room for the Basuto. Other additions and repairs to public buildings have been effected.

The police force is efficient and economical. By a further reduction of the proportion of first to second class privates there was a saving which admitted of the force being slightly increased. Each man is bound to keep an effective horse, and as it is found difficult to do so when exposed to the cold of the wet and wintry nights it has been decided to erect stables at the different stations, the necessary wood and iron for two of which have been purchased.

The missionaries of the various denominations continue to carry on the work of education with satisfactory results.

The increased grants in aid authorised by your Excellency have given encouragement to the teachers and enabled the missions to open new schools.

There is but one industrial school in Basutoland. It is under the auspices of the Paris Evangelical Society. The pupils are taught masonry and carpentering. Four ex-pupils are now engaged on Government buildings and have shown good solid work. Four boys have been sent at Government expense to the Trappist Institution in Natal to learn trades. A school for European children has been opened at Maseru under Government supervision, and receives a small grant in aid.

An undenominational school opened by a Mosutu teacher under the patronage of a Chief has so far succeeded as to be in a position to claim Government assistance. This is the only case which has come to my notice where Basuto have helped themselves to education irrespective of the missionaries.

The free dispensary established at Maseru appears to be successful, and has encouraged me to open another at Mafeteng, where a doctor from the Orange Free State attends once a week.

The hut tax collection shows a marked improvement. Our local revenue for the past year considerably exceeded our estimate.

There is little serious crime in the country. Most of the habitual thieves are in gaol or have left Basutoland.

I continue to receive the support of the Chiefs in the measures I adopt for the suppression of crime and irregularities on the border.

The news of the death of Sir John Brand caused sincere regret to all Her Majesty's officers in Basutoland. From the time of the annexation we were well assured of his sympathy with the object Her Majesty's Government had in view, the restoration of peace and good order in Basutoland. Although he, in common with most of his burghers, disbelieved in the methods adopted to attain these ends, whenever an opportunity offered he advised the Basuto for their own good to submit, and to his counsels as well as to the great influence he exercised over those who knew him is due the satisfactory relations which now exist, and which I hope will long continue to exist, between Basutoland and the Orange Free State.

I have much pleasure in reporting that the conduct of the officers now in the service has been exemplary. The work entrusted to them, which in the case of those in charge of districts and out-stations involves responsibility and at times calls for the exercise of decision and prudence, has given me satisfaction.

The increase in the local revenue is chiefly due to the exertions of the officers supported by the Chiefs, and gives satisfactory evidence of the manner in which they work together.

I append a summary of general statistics for the year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. CLARKE,

Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency
The High Commissioner,
&c. &c. &c.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax - - - -	10,483	14	7
Licenses - - - -	800	6	6
Post office - - -	538	1	8
Fines and fees - - -	163	8	6
Miscellaneous - - -	116	19	11
	12,102	11	2

Licenses.

General traders - - - - -	73
Hawkers - - - - -	119

Schools.

Number of schools - - -	88
Number of scholars on books - -	4,427
Amount of Government grants in aid of above - - - -	2,694*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*

Free Dispensary.

Number of patients - -	1,952

Enclosure No. 1.

THABA BOSIGO (MASERU) DISTRICT.

Report for the Year ended 30th June 1888.

Maseru, July 26, 1888.

I HAVE to report that during the past year there has been nothing of importance to disturb the peace of the district.

The Chiefs have afforded assistance in the recovery of stolen stock, as well as in matters of administration relating to our courts when required to do so. They have shown an increased desire to see the hut tax well paid, and have in most cases exerted themselves to accomplish it.

Our relations with the bordering Free State officials have been satisfactory.

In the maintenance of order and suppression of crime on the border there has been mutual co-operation. The liquor traffic is carried on only in a minor degree through the agency of small border farmers. There are no canteens on the border, and the Landdrost of Lady Brand has cordially endeavoured to suppress illicit sales of liquor to Basuto at the town canteens.

Very few cases of stock stealing from neighbouring territories have occurred. Such stock as have been reported and traced to this district have been recovered and returned to the owners.

A large gathering from the Lesutho took place at Maseru on the 18th and 19th July 1887 to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, which passed off well.

Pastoral and Agricultural.

Cattle are increasing and the grass area is diminishing. The grain crops have proved very good, but realised very low prices, the effect of which has been that less mealies are grown than formerly and more Kaffir corn. A quantity of seed wheat distributed by Government with a view to improve this class of cereal has produced a good return for redistribution.

Commercial.

There has been an improvement in trade, which, however, was greatly influenced by the very wet season that flooded the rivers and impeded communication with the grain markets. A waggon pont now placed on the Caledon River at Maseru will I trust tend to facilitate traffic and stimulate the grain trade.

Roads.

All the main routes which had become rotten with rains and development of springs are now in a fair state of repair.

Education.

Very fair progress has been made in the schools under the missionary societies. The number of aided schools is 25, with 1,480 scholars.

A considerable number of educated natives are now to be found in search of work.

A new mission of the English church has been successfully established at Masiti under the Rev. T. Woodman.

Crime.

No serious crime has occurred. There have been a few cases of natives working in the Free State who have fled from their masters owing to alleged ill-treatment, or the withholding of wages, taking stock as pledges; but they have been punished for their action, and the Landdrost of Lady Brand has displayed a desire to investigate such grievances and has undertaken to let complainants represent their cases in *forma pauperis.*

Labour.

Labour has been plentiful at current wages of 1*s.* a day. Many have sought work in the Free State and Diamond Fields, and considerable numbers have been recruited for the Transvaal gold fields, where the character of the Basuto for good work stands very high.

Medical.

A good deal of sickness as well as mortality has prevailed chiefly from a disease known as "measles" and from dysentery.

A free dispensary established at Maseru under management of the Medical Officer has proved of much public advantage. From the accompanying Report of Dr. Rowe it will be seen that the natives attended in large numbers.

BASUTOLAND.

I append a return of revenue received during the year in the district.

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax - - - -	2,346	11	0
Licenses - - - -	136	0	0
Fines and fees - - -	28	16	6
Miscellaneous - - -	88	2	9
Post Office (Basutoland) - -	538	1	8
	3,137	11	11

(Signed) G. Y. LAGDEN,
Assistant Commissioner.

Enclosure No. 2.

SIR, Maseru, July 3, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to state that since July 1st, 1887, a free dispensary has been opened at Maseru Hospital, at which all Basuto presenting themselves receive free advice and medicine. The number of Basuto who have availed themselves of this privilege has been nineteen hundred and fifty-two (1,952) from July 1st, 1887, to June 30th, 1888.

I beg to append a detailed analysis of the cases treated, from which it will be seen that syphilis and the various disorders of the digestive system have contributed most largely. I have long been in doubt whether the disease called by the natives macaula should be classed as syphilitic, and whilst still not wishing to commit myself to a decided opinion, I have thought it advisable to classify it under that head in the appended analysis. I am thankful to say it has so far proved very amenable to treatment.

The appreciation of the dispensary by the Basuto is, I think, shown by an analysis of the attendances during the four quarters of the year, which are as follows :—

July 1st, 1887, to September 30th, 1887 -	80
October 1st, 1887, to December 31st, 1887 -	207
January 1st, 1888, to March 31st, 1888 -	637
April 1st, 1888, to June 30th, 1888 -	1,028
Total - - -	1,952

In December 1887 and January and February 1888 an epidemic of measles and hooping cough broke out in Maseru. There were, I am glad to say, few deaths. Towards the end of May I visited two native villages near Maseru, in which a very virulent type of dysentery had broken out, causing many deaths. I accounted for it by the drinking fountains having been con-

taminated during the heavy rains, and I am pleased to say that after my visit and advising to the inhabitants to change their water supply the disease rapidly abated.

The health of the prisoners in the gaol here has been excellent, only two trivial cases of sickness having occurred amongst them during the year. This in itself speaks as to the excellent condition of the gaol.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. J. V. ROWE, L. & L.M.K.Q.C.P.I., &c.
Medical Officer.

Lieut.-Colonel
Sir Marshal J. Clarke, R.A., K.C.M.G.,
Resident Commissioner,
Basutoland.

Enclosure No. 3.

MAFETENG DISTRICT.

Report for the year ended 30*th June* 1888.

1. Since my last annual report there has not been any great change in the state of the district. Everything has gone on quietly and orderly during the year.

2. The advantage of having the boundary between the district under my charge and the Orange Free State distinctly marked by beacons is still very apparent in the number of border disputes being far less than formerly.

3. I regret to say that at times the Chief Lerothodi still drinks very heavily. I have endeavoured to catch his messengers by keeping police almost constantly patrolling the border, but it is very difficult to prevent a man in his position getting liquor, where he can obtain it from almost every farmer in the Free State on the long open border from the Caledon to the Cornet Spruit, and where the headmen on this side are immediately under him, and dare not disobey him. I am, however, glad to state that with this exception very little brandy is now brought in by either Chiefs or people.

4. I am obliged, to a very large extent, to work through the Chiefs, who are very jealous of, and resent any interference with their authority; consequently in all judicial matters the ordinary course of bringing cases into court cannot be followed, but the cases have to be arranged with the aid of the Chiefs.

5. My relations with the Colonial and Free State officials on the border are very friendly, and, as formerly, I have experienced no difficulty in recovering and restoring property stolen from outside and traced into my district.

6. Very few cases of crime have come to my notice, and stock thefts from neighbouring States have been rare.

BASUTOLAND.

A few cases have occurred in which Basuto working in the Free State have brought their masters' property to Basutoland with the intention of having disputes with their masters about wages or illtreatment settled here, but I have always insisted upon the property being restored, pointing out the illegality of the acts and explaining the proper course to be taken to obtain redress for alleged wrongs.

The Chiefs settle all cases, both civil and criminal, in which only natives resident in Basutoland are concerned.

7. The season's crops of wheat, mealies, and Kafir corn have been good.

8. Trade has been better than for some years past, but the price paid for grain is low, being about 5*s.* a bag of 200 lbs. of each of the three kinds grown in the country.

9. Parties of men have been kept employed working at the roads, but there is still a good deal to be done to these to repair the damage caused by the heavy autumn rains.

10. Labour is easily obtainable at 1*s.* a day. Large numbers of men go to the diamond fields and elsewhere to work.

11. The health of the district has been good, but measles have recently broken out at many villages.

12. The religious work previously reported is making fair progress, and so is the work of education. The schools are well attended.

13. The revenue for the year amounted to 1,930*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, as under :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax - - - -	1,736	2	6
Licenses - - - -	154	0	0
Judicial fines - - -	23	15	0
Fees - - - -	14	0	0
Miscellaneous - - -	2	11	9
	1,930	9	3

(Signed) W. H. SURMON,
Mafeteng, 7th July 1888. Assistant Commissioner.

Enclosure No. 4.

ANNUAL REPORT, CORNET SPRUIT DISTRICT, 30th June 1888.

1. Matters in this district during the past 12 months have been quiet and orderly, and owing to an unusually good season food has been plentiful.

In August the Chief Sekaki Molomo died, and in the following March his son "Makho" was formally installed as his successor by Molomo, Chief of the clan.

At a pitso held in September, by order of the paramount Chief Letsie, and attended by most of the Baphuti Chiefs, "Mocheko," son of Lethoko Morosi, who came from Matatiele, was given a location in this district among the followers of the late Morosi.

In February Lerothodi and Seiso, sons of Letsie, were sent by their father to settle boundary disputes between the Chiefs Chopo and Potsane, Chopo and Makhube, and Sekoati and Smith Pushuli. Lerothodi reported that the boundaries had been defined between the disputants.

2. During the past year relations on the Free State—Basutoland border have been satisfactory.

3. Population is on the increase, more especially in the mountainous parts of the district.

4. The favourable rains that fell during the year, and the unusual lateness of the frost, resulted in a splendid harvest.

A considerable quantity of wheat has been taken out of the district, but the price paid for it was very low, owing in a great measure, I think, to its being practically shut out from the gold fields markets by the heavy duty imposed by the Transvaal Government on all Basutoland wheat imported into that State.

The stock in the district is in fairly good condition, and should fare well, as there is a large quantity of mealie and Kaffir corn stalks in the gardens which will soon be at their disposal.

5. The natives appear to be taking more interest in education. The educational and religious work is still progressing, and the schools in the district are fairly well attended.

The Church of England Mission has, at the request of the Chief Potsane, erected a substantial building at his village, which is used as a school-room, and in which services are held.

6. There are 11 trading stations in the district, and 14 hawkers' licences have been issued during the year.

Illicit brandy selling on the Free State border is not nearly as prevalent as formerly.

7. The general health of the district may be said to be good.

Hooping-cough has been prevalent among children, and in many cases proved fatal. The want of medical assistance is greatly felt in the district.

8. Stock thefts from foreign States appear to be decreasing; in 1885–6 there were 20 convictions, but only four in 1886–7 and six in 1887–8.

The usual detachment of police is still stationed here.

9. Labour is plentiful; a great many passes have been issued to persons wishing to seek employment in foreign States.

10. The roads are much damaged by the heavy and continuous rain, but are being repaired.

11. *Revenue.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax - - - -	1,465	3	3
Licences - - - -	142	15	0
Fees and fines - - -	29	13	0
Sale of unclaimed stock - -		19	6
	1,638	10	9

(Signed) J. W. BOWKER,
Mohale's Hoek, June 30, 1888. Inspector, B.M.P.

Enclosure No. 5.

LERIBE DISTRICT

Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 1888.

The past year has been comparatively uneventful, no serious disturbances having occurred. There is still a certain amount of friction between the Chiefs Joel and Jonathan, in which the minor Chiefs occasionally participate.

Some further ill-feeling has arisen out of certain of Joel's followers having left him on account of alleged illtreatment and gone over to Jonathan, who refuses to give them up.

Some uneasiness was recently caused by a report which got abroad that Jonathan was endeavouring to persuade the paramount Chief to do away with the boundary between himself and Joel, so as to enable him (Jonathan) to deal directly with matters in all parts of the district. This alarm appears to have died away for the present.

The Chief Ramanella has lately shown a desire to establish more intimate relations with Government than have hitherto existed, and his followers are now paying hut tax both current and arrear. He has also on several occasions given assistance in tracing and recovering stolen stock.

In August 1887 attention was drawn to the fact that the Chief Khetisa Molapo had located his brother Mosito with a number of followers in the lower spurs of the "Maluti," in ground set aside by the late Chief Molapo for pasturage for the cattle of the tribe. A meeting was called by the Chief Jonathan at Thlotse Heights, and after some discussion it was decided that Mosito and his followers must be removed, which has since been done.

Various disputes have arisen during the year, notably one between Selebalo Moshesh and Seetsa Molapo respecting a reed-bed at "Maloaneng"; but the cases have, as a rule been dealt with as they arose, and there appears to be a growing tendency to get quarrels settled peaceably by the Chiefs instead of resorting to violence.

The "Molapo Estate" cattle still present an element of probable discord, as large numbers of them are in the hands of the minor sons of Molapo (Joel, Khetisa, and others), and the question of their right to them has been lately raised by Jonathan, who claims them as his father's principal heir.

Population, Hut Tax, Passes, &c.

No census has been taken, but the population of the district has been estimated at upwards of 50,000 souls, and is increasing rapidly through the influx of families who have been working for some years in the Cape Colony and Orange Free State, and are now returning to Basutoland with their stock. If this stream of emigration continues there is some danger of the district becoming overstocked.

Hut tax has been paid better than in previous years, the amount brought to account during the past year being 3,065*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, as against 1,418*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* brought to account in 1885–6.

About 3,800 passes have been issued during the year exclusive of those granted in the sub-district of Butha Buthe. Of these 3,800 passes about 800 were for the purpose of seeking service, and the average number of persons to each pass was two.

Crime.

The cases tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court at Thlotsi Heights during the past year were as follows:—

Offence.	Number tried.
Theft of s	12
Petty thefts	3
Breach of trust	1
Receiving stolen stock	1
Contravention of trading regulations	3
Contravention of pass regulations	4
Assault	4
Resisting police and rescuing prisoner	1
Trespass and rescue of stock in Orange Free State	2
Wanton destruction of property	1
Assault and escaping from H.L. party	4
Escaping or attempting to escape from gaol	6
Breach of prison discipline	2
Police neglect of duty in allowing prisoner to escape	1

Education.

Three Missionary Societies are working in Leribe, viz., Church of England, French Protestant and Roman Catholic. The Church of England has three schools under its care, the principal one being at Thlotse Heights, and the out-stations being—

1. Tsikoane (Chief Jonathan's village).
2. Sekubu (in the ward of Chief Joel).

The French Protestant Mission has one head-station school and five out-station schools in the district as follows:—

Leribe Mission Station, residence of Rev. J. Wietzieker; Thlotse Heights, in charge of native teacher; Koloyane (Seisas village); Thaba Phatsua (Khetisa's village); Kalo (Chief Joel Molapo's); Hololo (Butha Buthe ward). The Roman Catholic Mission has one school at St. Monica's, a few miles from the waggon drift leading to Ficksburg, Orange Free State.

A report on such of the above schools as are in receipt of Government grants was sent in on the 2nd instant.

The Church of England Mission sustained a serious loss during the year, in the death of the Rev. R. K. Champernoune, which took place at Thlotse Heights on the 14th December 1887.

Commercial.

The number of trading stations in the district is increasing, eight general traders' licences having been taken out for 1888, besides which 31 monthly licences have been granted to hawkers trading with waggon loads of goods in the more remote parts of the district.

Trade appears to have improved in spite of the depression caused by the excessive import duties charged by the Transvaal on all produce except that grown in the Free State.

Large quantities of grain are grown in the district, and the supply might be greatly increased but for the obstructions placed in the way of its reaching the market.

Public Works.

During the incessant heavy rains in the early part of 1888 the roads in Leribe became almost impassable, and although road parties have been at work on them whenever the weather permitted, they are still in bad order in many places where the ground is so saturated that springs have broken out.

A considerable amount of labour will have to be expended in metalling them before they are fit to stand such weather as that of the past summer.

The rivers Caledon and Thlotsi being unprovided with boats have caused much delay to traffic during the first five months of

1888; this will probably not occur again to the same extent, as a boat for the Caledon has been purchased and one for the Thlotse is expected shortly.

Medical.

There have been numerous cases of dysentery lately in the camp at Thlotse Heights, chiefly amongst children, some of which have terminated fatally.

Influenza has been prevalent and measles have recently made their appearance in the camp and neighbourhood.

The disease known among the Basuto as "mokaula" is apparently spreading. No cases of small pox have been reported during the year.

Police.

The police force stationed in Leribe is in a very satisfactory state a regards conduct and discipline.

The number of men is still insufficient, especially during the collection of hut tax, when it is necessary to keep several men at each collecting station to receive and stack the grain and preserve it from damage. While this work is going on the usual camp duties, patrols, &c., fall heavily on the few men remaining in camp.

Relations with bordering States.

There have been a few cases of alleged breach of the Orange Free State border, where natives from Basutoland have been charged with committing assault in the Free State, and in one instance in November 1887 an escaped criminal was followed by a party of Boers, who captured him near Peka Camp and took him back into the Free State without reference to any Government officer.

Liquor smuggling is not carried on openly to any great extent, but during May last several natives were arrested by patrols with brandy in their possession, which they had purchased from a waggon on the Free State border not far from Peka; and other natives being sent to enquire ascertained that spirits were to be obtained on two of the farms in that neighbourhood, but only to be drunk on the premises.

A question has arisen as to which of the streams near the sources of the Caledon is actually that river. This will require careful inquiry on the spot, which is about to be undertaken.

The Orange Free State border officials, with one exception, have shown themselves most willing to co-operate with me in matters concerning the border.

(Signed) S. BARRETT,
Assistant Commissioner.

BASUTOLAND.

Summary of revenue collected in Leribe district during the year 1887–1888.

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax - - - -	3,065	2	4
Licences - - - -	196	14	0
Fines - - - -	34	0	6
Fees - - - -	3	0	0
Miscellaneous - - -	9	0	0
	3,307	16	10

Sub-Inspector's Office, Butha Buthe,
June 30th, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward you the annual report on the part of the Leribe district which is under my charge for the year ending June 30, 1888.

General.

The general state of the ward during the past year has been peaceful. The only disturbance of any consequence that occurred was in October 1887. It arose through some cattle belonging to Belo's people trespassing in Tsolo Mopeli's land. Some shots were fired, but no one was hurt by them, and the matter was afterwards arranged. The reeds, which belong partly to Joel and partly to Motsuene, and which caused so much trouble some time ago, were last year, in July, cut without any unpleasantness.

There has not been much crime in this ward during the year, only ten criminal cases having been tried in this court in which a verdict of "guilty" was recorded, and most of these were of a very trivial character.

Relations with bordering States.

There has been very little trouble with the inhabitants of the Orange Free State in the part of the ward near Butha Buthe; but up towards Witzie's Hoek there have been several cases of trespass, and a charge was also brought against some of Lebesa's people of having gone into the Free State with arms and using threats against the native police of Witzie's Hoek. All of which has led to a good deal of friction between the Basuto in that part of the ward and the natives living in Witzie's Hoek.

One or two of these cases are still unsettled. Within the last few days a question has also arisen as to the actual boundary between Basutoland and the Free State, near the sources of the Caledon river. This is also still undecided.

The Free State authorities, particularly Mr. Montgomery, the commandant of Witzie's Hoek, have in every case afforded me all the help they could.

Commercial.

There are five traders in this ward. There are two stores belonging to coolies. One new trader, a coolie, has come in during the year, and is trading at Joel's village. On the whole trade has, I think, slightly improved during the past year.

Education.

There are two schools in the ward, one under the French Protestant Mission Society at Chief Joel Molapo's village. This school is very fairly attended, and up to December last a large number of both boys and girls attended the night school; but since that time the night school has been discontinued, owing to want of lights.

The other school, which is at Sekubu, belongs to the English Church, and is under the charge of the Rev. W. H. Ball. This school numbers only five or six, all of whom reside at Sekubu.

Agriculture.

The crops for the most part have been very good this year. There appears to be an increasing tendency to grow wheat, and the wheat and mealie crops were both very good. The Kafir corn was a good deal injured by the heavy rains; but a large quantity was sown, and a fair crop has been saved.

Roads.

Considering the continued bad weather, which lasted from December to April, the roads are in fair condition, but are badly in want of repair in some few places.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BOXWELL,
Sub-Inspector, B. M. Police.

BASUTOLAND.

Enclosure No. 6.

BASUTOLAND, BEREA DISTRICT.

Report for the year ending 30th June 1888.

Political.

Since my last annual report there has been no renewal of the disturbances between the Chief Masupha and Peete. The line between the gardens of the people of Masupha and Peete has not been strictly observed, but there has been no stock stealing, and there appears to be a disposition to talk over disputes that arise in place of taking up arms. A quarrel has occurred between Peete and his uncle Legaba, which may perhaps complicate the question between Peete and Masupha, as Legaba has offered to place himself and his land under Masupha.

The relations between Masupha and Leshoboro Majara also appear to be improving. The Chiefs have met and talked cases, and though no complete settlement has been arrived at, several small matters have been amicably arranged.

In September Leshoboro had a quarrel with his younger brother Sepinaar. The messengers of Leshoboro were sent to take the cattle of a man called Lejoi, who was supposed to support Sepinaar. Lejoi resisted the messengers, and stabbed to death one man. Lejoi was afterwards arrested, tried and punished by the Resident Commissioner. Leshoboro and Sepinaar are still on bad terms, and Sepinaar has attempted to obtain support from Masupha.

Border questions with the Orange Free State have been few in number and have been satisfactorily arranged with the co-operation of the Landdrost of Lady Brand.

Agricultural.

The crops of wheat, mealies, and Kafir corn have been abundant. The stock at this season does not appear to be in good condition, probably on account of the wet autumn.

Commercial.

The trade in the district has improved during the past year. Two new shops have been opened, and two new buildings erected for trading purposes. A store has been opened at this place by an Arab firm. I have issued the following licenses:—

9 general traders.
27 hawkers.
8 permits to remove grain.

Public Works.

Road parties have been constantly at work opening new roads and repairing the existing ones, which were much damaged by the heavy autumn rains. There is much work yet to be done on the roads. Some additions to the Government buildings at this place have been commenced.

Education.

I forward a report on my inspection of the different schools in the district.* There are two stations of the French Protestant Society and two stations of the Roman Catholic Mission, with several out-stations managed by native teachers. As a rule they are well conducted, and fair progress is made. A party of four young men from the industrial school at Quthing have been lately employed in building some additions to the Magistracy at this place. The work is not yet completed, and it would be premature to report upon it ; but the natives appear to understand their trades, and the work which has been done is of particularly good quality.

Crime.

Every case of theft from the Free State reported to me has been dealt with, the offenders punished, and the stolen property restored. The detection and apprehension of thieves is facilitated by Masupha and other Chiefs, who have assisted me whenever called upon. There is a decrease in the number of cases in which natives have stolen stock from their masters in the Free State, on account of real or fancied unjust treatment.

This may be attributed to the attention which their complaints receive when made in the court of the Landdrost, Lady Brand. A few of the younger Chiefs are still addicted to brandy-drinking. The criminal cases before me during the year have been as follows :—

Thefts - - - - -	11
Assault - - - -	6
Fraud - - - - -	1
Offence against gaol discipline -	1
Introducing liquor into Basutoland -	1
Shooting with intent to kill - -	1
Total - -	21

Labour.

Several employers of labour at the diamond and gold fields have visited the district and returned with large parties of men. Labour in the country on roads, &c. is much sought after by the

* Not received in Colonial Office.

BASUTOLAND. Basuto at the usual rate of 1*s.* per day, without food. During the year 5,200 passes have been granted to leave the country, the majority being to young men in search of work.

Medical.

The autumn and early winter has been an unhealthy season. It appears that the mortality among children has been greater than usual.

Revenue.

Hut tax has been paid on 1,891 huts. The following revenue has been collected and remitted to the Resident Commissioner :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Hut tax - - -	845	10	0
Licenses - - -	102	0	0
Grain passes - - -	1	0	0
Judicial fines - - -	7	8	6
	955	18	6

(Signed) H. C. SLOBY,
Berea, 2nd July 1888. Acting Assistant Commissioner.

Enclosure No. 7.

Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 1888.

Assistant Commissioner's Office, Quthing,
July 2, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the state of Quthing District.

The only matter of political importance which occurred during the past year was a dispute between Chiefs Nehemiah and Koadi concerning a boundary.

In consequence of this quarrel an affray took place between their followers, and as sticks and stones were freely used several persons received slight injuries.

Nehemiah, Koadi and five of their men were tried and punished by Chief Nkwebe, and I formally approved of the sentence.

The general state of the district is satisfactory.

Pastoral and Agricultural.

The harvest has been ample for the requirements of the people, who have reaped a large quantity of mealies, Kafir corn, wheat, and oats

I have noticed that the district is becoming overstocked with cattle, and at the present time pasture is scarce.

Religion and Education.

Two French Protestant missionaries are resident in the district.

There is one industrial and seven elementary schools which are well attended, and the scholars are making good progress. Six of these schools receive Government grants in aid.

Commercial.

There are six general traders' shops in Quthing, and four hawkers' licences have been issued.

Business was very brisk, but has lately fallen off a little; 423 bales of wool were purchased by the traders during last year, and the average price paid was 3*d.* per lb.

Stock and grain are cheap.

Medical.

Numbers of men, women, and children are afflicted with the venereal disease known among the Basuto as "macaula," but as Government supply medicine to the natives at small cost, I expect this disease will gradually die out.

Crime and Police.

The following criminal and civil cases have been tried in the Assistant Commissioner's Court:—

Homicide - - - - -	1
Assault - - - - -	3
Thefts - - - - -	3
Contravening pass regulations - -	12
„ Trading „ - - -	1
Civil cases - - - - -	4

The strength of the police is:—

2 officers.
2 European constables.
26 rank and file.

Labour

Labour is plentiful. Current rates of wages 1*s.* per day.

BASUTOLAND.

Roads.

The main roads are in thorough repair. A waggon road across the Drakensberg to Ongeluks Nek is now being constructed. A pont capable of carrying a loaded transport waggon and four oxen will soon be placed on the Orange river at Siake Drift.

Revenue.

The total revenue collected between 1st July 1887 and 30th June 1888 amounted to 1,132*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, of which 1,025*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* was hut tax.

Tax was paid on 2,357 huts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. P. KENNAN,
Inspector, B.M. Police.

The Resident Commissioner,
Basutoland.

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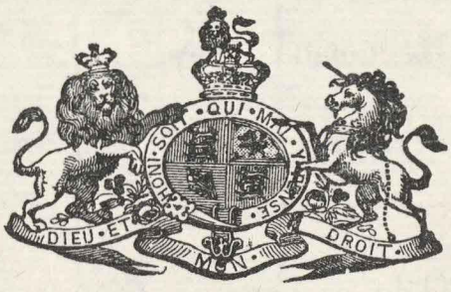
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 17.

BERMUDA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249.—14.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	1888	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands-	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	1
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½

No. 17.

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[For previous Reports *see* 1886 [C.—5071.]; 1885 [C.—4904]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1880 [C.—3094].]

Governor T. L. GALLWEY to Lord KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Bermuda, March 27, 1888.

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit the annual Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1887, together with the report of Mr. Cavendish Boyle, the Colonial Secretary, thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
Downing Street.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hamilton,
Bermuda, March 1, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1887 :—

Finance.

2. The public revenue for the year was 27,401*l.*, against 30,518*l.* in 1886, whilst the expenditure of 1887 was 28,731*l.*, against 28,432*l.* in 1886. The revenue, therefore, shows a falling off of 3,117*l.* and the expenditure an increase of 299*l.*

These figures at first sight appear unsatisfactory, but it must be borne in mind that during the year just completed there were several extraordinary amounts expended, amongst which were the sums set apart for the purposes of the Jubilee celebration, comprising amounts for the Imperial Institute, and a vote for the Victoria Clock Tower and improvements to the Sessions House. Moreover, the public debt was reduced by 1,700*l.*, and 400*l.* for worn coins is debited against the revenue for the year, and all these items tend to abnormally increase its public expenditure. At the commencement of the financial year, on the 1st of April 1887, there was a balance in the Treasury of 5,006*l.*, and after providing for the service on the general estimates it was presumed that there would be an available balance of 4,041*l.* to carry forward until the present year's Supply Bill could be passed, so that

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all the ordinary charges of government can easily be met under the present rates of taxation.

3. The revenue and expenditure tables show as follows:—

Receipts.

	£
1886 - - - - -	30,518
1887 - - - - -	27,401

Expenditure.

	£
1886 - - - - -	28,432
1887 - - - - -	28,731

These tables may be sub-divided as under:—

Revenue.

——	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
1886 - - - -	24,782	5,736	30,518
1887 - - - -	22,612	4,789	27,401

Expenditure.

——	Salaries.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£
1886 - - - -	9,881	18,551	28,432
1887 - - - -	9,715	19,016	28,731

In comparison with 1886 the following differences are shown:—

Receipts.

	£
In Customs for 1887 a decrease of -	- 2,170
Other receipts a decrease of -	- 947

Expenditure.

	£
In salaries for 1887 a decrease of	166
Administration of justice	492
Post office	248
Public Health	252
Roads	651
Steam communication (on the cessation of the subsidized service)	1,312
Whilst in agricultural there was an increase of	195
Payment of public debt	1,430
Interest	248
Miscellaneous	892
Legislative	319
And works and buildings	353

The Receiver General's tables of comparison for receipts show that there was a decrease in the 5 per cent. *ad valorem* Customs duties of 268*l.*; in malt liquor, 177*l.*; in rum, 575*l.*; other spirits, 873*l.*; wine, 251*l.*; and tobacco, 39*l.* The only increase under this heading being 26*l.* on cigars.

4. The Imperial expenditure returns are as follows:—

	£
Governor's salary	2,199
Military establishments	88,614

The latter showing a decrease of 10,000*l.* on last year's tables. There is no return of the naval expenditure available for this report.

Public Debt.

5. Whilst 1,700*l.* was paid off during the year, the public debt has increased from 7,214*l.* to 10,114*l.* This increase is due to Treasury debentures issued for the purposes of a new Government House now in course of erection. The Act authorises the raising of 8,000*l.* on such debentures, and requires that at least 500*l.* of the amount borrowed for this purpose shall be appropriated annually from the general revenue towards the extinction of this debt. 2,120*l.* remains still due on the Causeway loan certificates.

1,394*l.* remains as an outstanding liability on the Savings Bank loan, and 6,600*l.* is due on the new Government House debentures. The average rate of interest on the first and last named loans is 4½ per cent., and on the Savings Bank liability the Colony pays only 2½ per cent.

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Legislation.

There was a special session of the Colonial Parliament, which commenced on the 1st of December 1886 and was continued until the 21st of March 1887, and during that period three Acts were passed and came into operation, namely, the measures authorising the incorporation respectively of the Bermuda Steamship Company and of the Bermuda Telephone Company, and the Act regulating the safe keeping of petroleum and other substances of a dangerous nature.

During the regular session of 1887, which commenced on the 25th of May and which was carried over the termination of the year, 12 Acts were passed, the most noteworthy of which are the Weights and Measures Act, the law amending the Public Health Acts, and the Criminal Lunatics Act.

During the early session of the year six resolves were passed appropriating 536*l.* for specific services not provided for by existing laws, and in the regular session of 1887 the amount so appropriated was 8,820*l.*, authorised by 13 resolutions of the Legislature.

There can be no doubt that much time is expended by this somewhat primitive method of conducting parliamentary business.

A general Act placing under the control of the various executive boards sums sufficient to meet contingencies of an ordinary nature would simplify matters considerably, and would shorten the session and the labours of the members of the Legislature. The Assembly, however, clings with tenacity to the ancient manner of conducting all financial matters, and looks upon any attempt to obtain a general grant for contingent services as an infringement of the rights of the representative branch of the Legislature, and sessions of the Colonial Parliament are spread over nearly two thirds of the year, with a result, as in the present instance, of some 18 Acts, which could easily be passed in three months.

Colonial Civil Service.

7. The following changes in the colonial establishment took place during the year:—

Mr. Joseph T. Gilbert was appointed Surveyor of Shipping in April.

Mr. J. M. Hayward was elected Coroner for the Eastern District, in succession to Mr. W. R. Higinbotham, on the 28th of May.

Mr. G. Tear was appointed Superintendent of Police, vice Mr. A. Hatcher, who became keeper of the gaol at Hamilton, on the 1st October.

Mr. W. C. Hallett was confirmed in the office of Colonial Surveyor and Mr. H. H. Hallett was appointed Clerk in that Department on the same date.

And Mr. Clarence Peniston succeeded Mr, J. H. Trott as Provost Marshal General on the 25th of October; the latter gentleman retiring from the public service after having filled the post for no less than 48 years, and being granted his full salary by Act of the Legislature as a pension during the remainder of his life.

Imports and Exports.

8. The value of imports in 1887 was 264,920*l.*, against 279,190*l.*, whilst the value of exports from the Colony was 88,921*l.*, against 75,822*l.* in 1886.

The tables give the following figures for 1887 :—

Imports from—

	£
United Kingdom - - -	71,883
British Colonies - - -	17,656
Foreign countries - - -	175,381

Exports to—

	£
United Kingdom - - -	2,300
British Colonies - - -	1,459
Foreign countries - - -	85,160

It is satisfactory to observe the marked increase in the value of the exports, and it is to be hoped that the agricultural depression, which has been so apparent during the past three or four years, has reached its limit, and that an improvement has already commenced in the industry of the Colony, on which depends the welfare of a large proportion of its inhabitants.

From Barbados and Demerara importations were made to the value of 8,000*l.* From British North America, lumber, cod-fish, horses, and fodder to the extent of 9,135*l.* was shipped into the Colony. From the United States general merchandise in value 174,698*l.* was received in the Colony.

To the latter country vegetable produce raised in the winter months for the New York market was shipped to the amount of 82,472*l.*

A growing industry is noteworthy in the raising and shipment to New York of cut flowers and bulbs during the late winter and early spring months of the year. 1,228 boxes of the former, valued at 439*l.*, were exported from Hamilton, whilst the 607 packages of bulbs which were sent out realized no less than 1,886*l.* There can be no doubt that the demand for these products is increasing, and that considerable profits can be made from their cultivation.

Whilst it is not to be wondered at that merchants and consumers should go to the nearest market for their supplies, and therefore

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importations from America are more than double those of all other countries collectively, there can be no doubt that with dependable direct steam communication between the Mother Country and the Colony a very much larger amount would be imported thence at cheaper rates, and with greater benefit alike to the manufacturer and exporter in England, and to the purchaser and consumer in the Colony.

Population and Public Health.

9. The Registrar General reports that the estimated population of the Colony at the end of 1887 was 15,347, comprising 7,478 males and 7,869 females. According to the colour classification the figures were, whites 6,097 and coloured 9,250.

The increase of the population during the year was 170: the birth rate was 33·1 whilst the deaths averaged 20·4 per thousand.

The military returns as supplied by the principal medical officer show that the health of the troops was good. The average strength was 1,183. Admissions to hospital 1,026. Ratio per thousand 867·28. Deaths 11 or 9·30 per thousand. Average daily sick 49·84. Average strength of women 87: no deaths. Average strength of children 153: 4 deaths.

Deputy Surgeon General Cowan, R.N., reports that the average strength of naval forces at Bermuda, corrected for time, was 1,055. The mean strength of the dockyard was 400, showing an increase of 20, and there has been a mean increase of 24 men on board H.M.S. "Terror."

Ireland Island was remarkably healthy throughout the year. Of the four cases of enteric fever, two were contracted in Hamilton, one in Somerset, whilst the remaining one was received from the service afloat. Of the three deaths all come under diseases of the brain, one the result of injury (concussion).

In the dockyard the average number of women and children is slightly in excess of 1886, viz., 255 against 250. There has not been a single death, and the Staff Surgeon reports immunity from diseases of a zymotic type. During the summer months there was an apparent increase in the number of cases of abscess and of boils.

There were 14 births, viz., 5 males and 9 females.

Criminal Statistics.

10. Three hundred and ninety-one cases were reported to the police; of which number, 371 were apprehensions and summonses, 225 persons were summarily convicted; 26 were committed for trial in the superior courts; 66 were discharged, and 54 cases were dismissed on their merits. 145 offenders were fined in the summary courts; 21 were sent to prison in lieu of fine or surety; there were 53 cases of peremptory imprisonment, and 11 offenders were bound over to keep the peace.

Of the 26 cases in the higher courts, 9 ended in judgment for the Crown; in 3 cases the accused obtained verdicts, one prisoner was found to be insane, and 14 stand over for trial during the present year. There was 1 conviction of murder, 2 of manslaughter, 1 of attempt to murder, 2 of offences against the person, and 2 of offences against property.

The number of cases reported shows an improvement of 23 on last year's return, and only exceeds the average of the three previous years by 5.

Gaols and Prisoners.

11. Sixty-nine persons were committed to the Hamilton Gaol and 37 to that at St. George's, of these 93 were men and 13 women. 48 were imprisoned for safe custody or for want of security, and 58 for the purpose of penal imprisonment. 19 prisoners had been committed once previously, 6 twice, and 15 came under the heading of "three convictions or more."

The health of the prisoners was very good; the daily average of sick in Hamilton was less than 1, and in St. George's slightly above 1. There were no deaths.

Hard labour prisoners are employed solely in breaking stone within the gaols, which is used on the public roads.

The expenses of maintenance of the prisoners for the year amount to about 1,200*l.*

Public Institutions.

12. The report of the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum gives the following results:—Admissions 8, 4 males and 4 females; discharged 3 men and 1 woman, and there was 1 death, a man, which occurred from apoplexy supervening on general paresis.

The cost of the establishment amounted to 1,472*l.*, including salaries, wages, repairs and renewals of furniture, and victualling of inmates and attendants.

The approximate cost of maintenance of each patient being 41*l.* per annum, and the weekly expense of their dieting being 5*s.* 6*d.* per head.

Education.

13. The Inspector of Schools gives the following returns:—23 aided schools; 1,252 scholars, of which 654 were boys and 598 girls. School fees 763*l*; Government contributions 1,075*l.*; largest number in any school 153, smallest 16. There are 1,500 children returned of school age, that is between the ages of 6 and 13 years; 1,300 are at school; 50 are returned as receiving home instruction. No returns are made from the private schools.

Meteorological.

14. The mean temperature, as taken at the Government buildings, Hamilton, was 73°. The mean minimum being 65·2°; the mean maximum 82·6°.

BERMUDA.

The rainfall for the year was 50·64 inches; the maximum fall for one day was on the 30th of May, when 2·38 inches were registered. Heaviest monthly fall, in May, 9·02 inches; lowest, in February, 1·57 inches.

I have added hereto the table with which your Excellency has been good enough to supply me, which shows a difference of nearly 7 inches on the registration in Hamilton, and I have no doubt that the table is a correct one for the higher level of Mount Langton.

The wind observations give 102 days north, 65 east, 82 south, and 103 west, 101 north-east, 105 south-east, 221 south-west, 147 north-west. Barometrical readings, mean 30·043.

During the month of December an unusually prolonged and severe gale, or succession of gales, was experienced in this Colony. The wind blew continuously from the north-east for more than a fortnight and did a very considerable amount of damage to the trees and shrubs and to the young crops of vegetables. The most destructive agent during this visitation was the impregnation of the air with sea salt, which was blown straight across the islands, and which destroyed all the vegetation with which it came in contact; the damage to the young crops being estimated at fully 10,000*l.*

General.

15. The year was one of average prosperity throughout the Islands. The number of winter visitors from America and Canada was large, and a considerable amount of business accrued therefrom.

Mr. William Cox, a leading merchant and landowner, has supplied me with the following particulars:—"An effort, accom-
"panied by a liberal grant of 700*l.* from the Legislature, to enable
"light to be thrown on the cause of the onion blight, had the
"effect of inducing the visit of a scientist, who pointed out certain
"precautions which will do good immediately and will continue
"to do good year by year as point by point will be verified by the
"agricultural community."

"The long gale early in December, which was evidently owing
"to a sequence of at least three hurricanes passing in succession
"to the eastward of Bermuda, did 10,000*l.* worth of damage to the
"coming crop by the destruction of young onion and tomato
"plants. It reduced the growing early rose and prolific potatoe
"crop about 50 per cent. This crop is only about one sixteenth
"of the whole agricultural export, but as it is realized before the
"31st of March in each year, it is valuable because it represents
"generally ready money to the growers."

"The 'prolific' crop is raised as follows:—The seed is obtained
"mainly from Canadian ports, it is planted between tomatos,
"onions, or other regular ingredients of the main crop. Its first
"yield very little exceeds the seed in bulk, but is of good keep-
"ing quality, and remains sound until September or October,
"when it is planted and then yields a crop second to none in
"quality and from 12 to 20 times the bulk of the seed planted.

"Because, however, the process requires patience and considerable "barn room, it is not a favourite crop generally, and so does not "exceed a sixteenth of the whole."

Mr. Cox concludes by advocating the system of agricultural exhibitions, having seen their advantages in a recent visit to the Dominion of Canada.

Statistical Returns.

16. The usual table prepared for the Board of Trade Statistics is given below as usual.

Population.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1886 - - -	7,392	7,785	15,177
1887 - - -	7,478	7,869	15,347

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
Gross amount of public revenue - - -	30,518	27,401
Gross amount of public expenditure - -	28,432	28,731
Customs revenue - - - - -	24,782	22,612
Public debt - - - - -	7,214	10,114
	Tons.	Tons.
Total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared -	281,528	199,008
Tonnage of British vessels entered and cleared -	233,883	177,972
Tonnage of foreign vessels entered and cleared -	38,944	19,036
Tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared -	62,004	40,733
Tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared -	219,524	158,275
	£	£
Value of total imports - - - -	279,190	264,920
Value of imports from the United Kingdom -	79,037	71,883
Value of total exports - - - -	75,822	88,921
Value of total exports to the United Kingdom -	2,861	2,300

I have, &c.
(Signed) CAVENDISH BOYLE.

His Excellency
Lieut.-General T. L. Gallwey, R.E.,
Governor and Commander-
in-Chief, Bermuda.

BERMUDA.

Rainfall at Mount Langton, Bermuda, January to December 1887.

	Inches.
January - - - - -	5·93
February - - - -	2·10
March - - - - -	2·75
April - - - - -	3·04
May - - - - -	9·46
June - - - - -	3·61
July - - - - -	3·03
August - - - - -	6·78
September - - - -	4·08
October - - - - -	2·92
November - - - -	7·42
December - - - -	6·27
	57·39

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 37.

CEYLON.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1888.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
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1888.

[C.—5249.—40.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements - -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report) for 1887.	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1½
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent - -	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	„	1
27	Leeward Islands - -	„	3½
28	British Guiana - -	„	2
29	Western Australia -	„	½
30	Falkland Islands - -	„	
31	Basutoland - -	„	½
32	St. Lucia - - -	„	1½
33	Hong Kong - -	„	1½

No. 37.

CEYLON.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4904]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3388].

Governor Sir A. H. GORDON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Ratnapura, Ceylon,
September 12, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of the Blue Book of the Colony, together with the usual Report thereon by the Colonial Secretary.

The usual return of military expenditure has this year been included.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue of the Colony received during the year 1887 amounted to Rs. 13,441,692 28, and the expenditure defrayed to Rs. 13,313,038 99, showing a surplus of revenue over expenditure for the year of Rs. 128,653 29, a satisfactory balance. The following comparative statement gives particulars of the revenue and expenditure of 1886 and 1887:—

REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.		
—	1886.	1887.	—	1886.	1887.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Arrears of revenue -	174,031	139,613	Establishments, civil -	2,079,072	2,141,222
Customs - - -	2,903,283	3,129,476	„ judicial	796,373	784,376
Port and harbour dues	479,700	544,898	„ miscellaneous - -	1,605,936	1,711,422
Land sales - -	355,498	294,173	Pensions and retired allowances - -	689,059	682,559
Land revenue - -	1,083,011	962,113	Revenue services -	484,801	449,858
Rents, exclusive of lands - - -	321,401	319,402	Administration of justice - - -	169,701	126,433
Licenses - - -	1,380,077	1,459,519			
Carried forward -			Carried forward -		

REVENUE.			EXPENDITURE.		
—	1886.	1887.	—	1886.	1887.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward -			Brought forward -		
Stamps - - -	1,047,448	1,048,636	Ecclesiastical - -	3,145	—
Taxes - - -	38,947	35,666	Charitable allowances -	48,943	47,839
Postal - - -	14,443	37,359	Education - -	248,770	255,022
Fines and forfeitures -	64,297	55,537	Hospitals and sanitation	476,822	511,483
Government vessels -	59,755	61,165	Police services - -	116,801	120,367
Sale of Government property - -	1,093,699	1,047,924	Prison „ - -	432,369	457,682
Reimbursements -	387,380	466,372	Rent - - -	2,909	3,280
Telegraph receipts -	53,629	59,989	Transport - -	94,526	108,357
Miscellaneous receipts	368,531	245,270	Conveyance of mails and postal telegraph service - -	292,289	305,284
Interest - - -	154,455	154,806	Works and buildings -	247,392	187,904
Pearl fishery - -	3,971	400,767	Roads, streets, and bridges - -	1,433,400	1,497,104
Special receipts -	6,396	6,327	Miscellaneous services	208,540	167,591
Railway receipts -	2,692,596	2,972,676	Interest - - -	744,039	723,393
			Colonial store - -	29,278	27,713
			Military expenditure -	629,193	694,024
			Government vessels -	59,380	63,367
			Refund of duties, &c. -	91,559	56,820
			Lands taken for Government purposes	12,491	13,371
			Immigration - -	77,350	78,273
			Railway services -	1,816,656	1,861,494
			Exchange - -	122,273	130,453
			Forest services - -	—	106,347
Rs.	12,682,548	13,441,688	Rs.	13,013,067	13,313,038

Revenue.

2. The revenue exhibits a considerable increase over that of the preceding year, but there are losses under some of the heads. The principal items under which they occur are *land sales*, increased supervision over and care in respect of sales of Crown lands having been exercised during the past year, in connexion with the reorganisation of the Forests Department and with a view to the more careful conservation of native rights in grazing and forest lands. A deficient harvest in consequence of drought has reduced the land revenue, and a failure in the demand for timber has necessitated a reduction of the quantity cut for sale and reduced receipts under "sale of Government property."

3. On the other hand, there are large increases under the heads of customs and licenses (the excise on liquor), and the recently

opened additional mileage has increased the receipts of the railway, and an unexpected pearl fishery added nearly Rs. 400,000 to the revenue.

Expenditure.

4. The increased expenditure under the head "Establishments," nominally Rs. 155,638 66, is actually small, and is mainly due to additions to the staff of the Public Works and Survey Departments, rendered necessary by the additional work required of them, and to the new department of the Colombo Waterworks. The other increases are mainly matters of account, balanced by diminutions under other heads, and are due to the transfer to establishments of the salaries of presidents of village tribunals, who were previously paid under the head "Services," and to the reorganisation of the Forest Department and alterations in the method of accounting for prison services, which have caused apparent increases and corresponding reductions of expenditure as between the Government agents, the conservator of forests, and the inspector general of prisons. The real increase on establishments is Rs. 78,505 73, of which Rs. 32,436 32 is for the Colombo Waterworks.

5. The main increases of expenditure under services are due, under the head "hospitals," to exceptional sickness in some of the provinces; under "military expenditure," to the cost of the Colombo fortifications, an exceptional item; to increased expenditure on public works and to the depreciation of the rupee, which adds to the expenditure of the railway for interest in England, and to the loss under the head "exchange." Over all these services, except that of the Public Works Department, increased expenditure on which means increased work done, and is not to be regretted, the Local Government has little or no control.

Assets and Liabilities.

6. The assets of the Government on the 1st January 1888 amounted to Rs. 7,399,287 34, and the liabilities to Rs. 7,232,353 15, or an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 166,934 19.

Loans made by and payable to the Government of Ceylon.

7. Rs. 241,386 32 due to the Government by the municipality of Kandy on account of a loan for waterworks, and Rs. 9,900 due by the Industrial Schools, Kandy.

Public Debt.

8. The debt of the Colony on the 1st January 1888 is as under:—

2,244,967*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* in sterling, as against 2,262,779*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* on the 1st January 1887, and Rs. 65,000 in silver. The sterling debt is made up of 660,667*l.* 17s. 11*d.*, balance due on the several

CEYLON.

loans contracted for the improvement of the Colombo Harbour; 1,253,300*l.* balance due on the loans for the construction of the extensions of the railway from Kandy to Matale, and from Nawalapitiya to Nanuoya, and 331,000*l.* borrowed for the construction of the Colombo Waterworks. The silver loan of Rs. 65,000 was borrowed from the savings bank, under a special Ordinance passed for the purpose, for the construction of certain irrigation works.

Imports and Exports.

9. The trade for the year was valued at Rs. 90,331,006 47, as against Rs. 82,755,586 29 in 1886, divided into—

	1886.	1887.	Increase.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	47,855,787	50,312,136	2,456,349
Exports - - -	34,899,798	40,018,869	5,119,071

or, exclusive of specie—

	1886.	1887.	Increase.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Imports - - -	42,795,187	45,534,604	2,739,417
Exports - - -	33,639,198	38,354,967	4,715,769

Annual value of the trade of the Colony for the last ten years, deducting specie :—

	Rs.
1878 - - - -	93,254,340
1879 - - - -	96,293,006
1880 - - - -	97,813,458
1881 - - - -	78,794,252
1882 - - - -	78,101,205
1883 - - - -	78,323,553
1884 - - - -	76,992,639
1885 - - - -	74,633,444
1886 - - - -	76,434,385
1887 - - - -	83,889,572

The gross customs revenue for 1887 amounted to Rs. 3,179,404, which exceeds that for 1886 by Rs. 235,189.

Gross Customs Revenue for the Ten Years ending 1887.

	Rs.	c.
1878 - - - -	3,189,024	17
1879 - - - -	3,065,018	01
1880 - - - -	3,079,386	42
1881 - - - -	3,046,596	74
1882 - - - -	2,867,139	20
1883 - - - -	2,777,708	66
1884 - - - -	2,834,656	73
1885 - - - -	2,903,718	49
1886 - - - -	2,944,215	80
1887 - - - -	3,179,404	72

Increased duties were levied on certain articles, such as guns, spirits, wines, sugar, &c., under Ordinance 39 of 1884, which came into operation on January 1st, 1885.

Imports.

10. The principal Imports compare with 1886, as follows:—

		1886.	1887.
Grain - - - -	bushels	5,492,166	5,717,623
Cotton manufactures - -	value	Rs. 4,572,917	Rs. 4,836,883
Coal and coke - - -	tons	185,511	181,530
Specie - - - -	value	Rs. 4,777,531	Rs. 4,494,463

There were increases also in the imports of live stock, kerosine oil, manure, machinery, malt liquor, metals, opium, poonac, spirits, tobacco, and wines. There were decreases in cement and specie.

Exports.

11. The appended comparative table of Exports for 1886 and 1887 shows the increases and decreases under the most important heads:—

		1886.	1887.
Coffee - - - -	cwts.	183,044	181,909
Cinchona - - - -	lbs.	14,675,663	13,113,067
Tea - - - -	lbs.	7,849,888	13,834,057
Cocoa - - -	cwts.	13,056	17,460
Cardamons - - - -	lbs.	238,947	384,015

			1886.	1887.
Cocoanut roducts.	Cocoanuts - -	No.	5,431,239	10,044,329
	Coir stuffs - -	cwts.	100,329	97,804
	Cocoanut oil - -	cwts.	277,311	323,445
	Copra - - -	cwts.	156,519	136,346
Cinnamon - - - -		lbs.	2,365,038	2,046,153
Citronella oil - - -		ozs.	7,405,437	8,276,218
Plumbago - - - -		cwts.	241,760	238,599
Tobacco (unmanufactured) -		cwts.	45,943	35,954
Malt liquor - - - -		gallons	115,183	175,587
Arrack - - - -		gallons	66,077	87,323

The items call for no special remark.

Shipping.

12. The annexed table gives the number of ships, and their tonnage, entered inwards and cleared outwards at the ports of the Island for 1885, 1886, and 1887.

Comparative Statement of Vessels and Tonnage for 1885, 1886, 1887.

	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tons.	No of Vessels.	Tons.
1885 - - -	2,988	1,823,117	2,959	1,738,075
1886 - - -	3,088	1,952,290	3,153	1,971,191
1887 - - -	3,198	2,071,214	3,265	2,071,143

British and Colonial shipping formed rather more than three quarters of the whole.

The ships visiting Galle showed an increase of 39 in number and 54,060 tonnage.

Public Works.

13. The expenditure of the Public Works Department in 1887 was Rs. 2,586,941, as compared with Rs. 2,600,622 in 1886, towards which the collections under the Road Ordinance contributed Rs. 236,063, as compared with Rs. 233,800 in 1886, and private contributions under the grant-in-aid system of road construction Rs. 29,103, against Rs. 16,469.

There was an increase in establishments and departmental charges of Rs. 57,294, and a decrease under other heads of expenditure of Rs. 70,975.

Rs. 245,140 was spent on new roads and improvement to roads; Rs. 100,924 on new bridges; Rs. 119,676 on new buildings, and a sum of Rs. 4,995 on the improvement of the canal between Toppu and Puttalam.

14. The sums expended on the maintenance of the public works and buildings are shown in detail in the following summary:—

Maintenance Summary.

	1887.	1886.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Roads - - - -	804,927 42	820,761 17
Bridges - - - -	56,619 71	53,690 94
Canals - - - -	28,088 17	28,296 83
Irrigation works - - -	43,625 51	43,038 26
Public buildings - - -	114,814 31	117,151 89
Total - -	1,048,075 12	1,062,939 09

The length of roads open in 1886 and in 1887 compare as follows:—

	1886.	1887.
	Miles.	Miles.
Metalled roads - - -	1,403·96	1,416·36
Gravelled roads - - -	858·71	1,003·47
Natural roads - - -	630·25	472·25
Total - -	2,892·92	2,892·08

The average cost per mile of maintenance of the principal roads was Rs. 267 35 per mile for 1887, and Rs. 273 35 for 1886.

Irrigation Works (Construction).

The total expenditure (1887) has been Rs. 522,399 37 ; during 1886 the expenditure was Rs. 525,725 07. The principal works in progress have been the restoration of Kalawewa and Nuwarawewa in the North-Central Province, Batugedara Channel and Panamure Scheme in the Western Province, Máusáwewa in the North-Western Province, Labugala in the Eastern Province, Belihuloya Scheme in the Central Province, Mamadu and Mandukotai tank in the Northern Province, the Kalaweganga Scheme in the Southern Province, and the Kanda-ela in the Province of Uva.

In addition, Rs. 12,335 were expended on the survey of new irrigation schemes.

15. The furniture of the Queen's houses has been kept in good condition, and the buildings themselves are in a fair state of repair.

Colombo Breakwater and Harbour.

16. The total expenditure on this work up to the 31st December 1887 was Rs. 8,562,431, of which Rs. 104,376 was expended in the past year.

17. 4,470 tons of concrete, in bags of 10 tons each, were deposited, and the heavy plant dismantled and housed.

18. The result of the levels taken during the year showed that no settlement of the work had taken place. The dredging of the inner harbour was commenced during the year. Cross harbour soundings taken in December showed that there was no sign of silt in any part of the harbour.

Survey Department.

19. The operations of this Department have been, as usual, of an important and varied character. Besides the ordinary work of surveying Crown land for sale, a large amount of surveying was undertaken in connexion with irrigation schemes and forest reservation ; the execution of miscellaneous work of this character, which, though imperatively necessary, is not of a directly remunerative character, necessarily, tends to reduce the amount of land surveyed for sale and consequently the earnings of the Department ; and in fact the survey fees earned in 1887 amounted to Rs. 46,579 only. The gross expenditure of the Department was Rs. 388,703, and the average cost of surveys over 77,790 acres was Rs. 1 67 per acre.

20. The minor triangulation of the Island was continued during the year, and 30 new stations were established. The great

triangulation of the northern part of the Island, for the purpose of connecting the Ceylon system with the Madras Coast series of the great Trigonometrical Survey of India, was completed. The entire cost of this important work has been Rs. 11,887.

21. The number of lots alienated by the Crown, including those sold under Sir Henry Ward's Minute, was 3,654, embracing an area of 19,564 acres. Of this area 4,088 acres were purchased by Europeans at a rate of Rs. 19 52 per acre. The extent sold to natives realised Rs. 15 92 per acre.

22. Considerable advance was made during the year with surveys of roads, streams, and lakes in all the Provinces. In all 297 miles of roads were surveyed and mapped, of which 186½ were in the North-Central Province. Portions of the boundary between the Western and Southern Provinces, and of the boundary between the Central and Western Provinces, were surveyed and a vast quantity of other miscellaneous work, including cadastral surveys of villages for forest reservation purposes, surveys of the coast line, surveys of land to be acquired for Government purposes, &c., satisfactorily completed.

Railway.

23. In 1887 no extension of the railway was made, and the length of the line remains at 180⅝ miles, as in 1886.

The receipts, expenditure, and net earnings of 1886 and 1887 compare as under for the whole line:—

——	1886.	1887.
	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts - - - -	2,687,875	2,947,628
Expenditure - - -	1,451,716	1,466,001
Net earnings - - -	1,236,159	1,481,627

24. The approximate results for the year of each section of the railway system are as follows:—

——	Earnings.	Working Expenses.	Net Earnings.	Loss.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Main line - - - -	1,844,266	722,718	1,121,548	—
Coast line - - - -	254,745	227,692	27,053	—
Mátálé line - - -	86,130	95,030	—	8,900
Náwalapitiya line - - -	294,802	155,220	139,582	—
Nánuoya line - - -	467,683	252,622	215,061	—

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25. The cost of construction and dividend earned by each section are as under:—

	Net Earnings.	Cost of Construction.	Dividend earned.
	Rs.	Rs.	Per cent.
Main line - -	1,121,548	17,384,864	6·5
Náwalapitiya line -	139,581	2,674,626	5·2
*Coast line - -	27,053	2,192,214	1·2
Mátálé „ - -	Loss 8,899	3,391,952	Loss.
Nanuoya line - -	215,061	10,916,012	1·9
Total - -	1,236,159	36,559,670	4·1

* Paid for out of revenue.

The Ceylon Government borrows at about 4 per cent.

26. The coaching and goods traffic for 1886 and 1887 compare thus:—

Coaching.

	1886.	1887.
	Rs.	Rs.
Ordinary, 1st and 2nd Class -	156,849	164,771
„ 3rd Class - -	1,661,660	1,801,509
Season, 1st and 2nd Class - -	571	610
„ 3rd Class - - -	2,177	2,544
Parcels - - - -	140,626	152,487
Horses, carriages, and dogs -	6,308	6,810

Goods.

	1886.	1887.
	Tons.	Tons.
General - - - -	133,271	141,339
Public Works - - -	23,162	20,956

27. The improvement indicated by the above figures affects all the lines, except the Náwalapitiya section but is most marked on the Nanuoya extension. The stations on the Náwalapitiya section necessarily show a diminution, the traffic reaching the railway higher up.

28. There is an increase of 1,000 tons in the goods traffic on the Coast line, a favourable sign in connexion with the probable profits of the sanctioned extension southwards to Bentota and in fact, the prospects of the railway generally are of a hopeful character.

Legislation.

29. There were 24 Ordinances passed during the year, all of which have received Her Majesty's confirmation and gracious allowance, of these only two are of special importance, No. 2 of 1887, by which a machinery of Central and Provincial Irrigation Boards was provided to advise the Government and control expenditure on works of irrigation, and No. 7 of 1887, relating to Municipal Councils, which completely remodelled the rules governing the constitution and powers of those bodies. Among those of minor importance may be mentioned No. 4 of 1887, empowering the Crown to recover lands alienated by it and abandoned by their owners; an Ordinance No. 11 of 1887, to amend the Ceylon Penal Code, and No. 6 of 1887, to regulate the trade in petroleum.

Public Health.

30. The annexed table shows the comparative birth and death rates per mille for the years 1886 and 1887 for the eight Provinces, and for the whole Island.

B.

	Deaths per Mille.		Births per Mille.	
	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.
Western Province -	20·2	23·2	23·8	28·6
Central Province -	22·0	22·2	24·9	29·0
Northern Province -	27·9	19·9	26·7	35·8
Southern Province -	25·6	21·2	24·0	32·4
North-Western Province -	25·2	32·2	36·2	41·1
Eastern Province -	24·5	22·5	39·8	43·9
North-Central Province -	35·8	31·9	39·3	44·4
Uva Province - -	27·0	33·0	30·8	32·1
Whole Island -	23·7	24·0	27·1	32 9

Total number of deaths registered in	1886	- - -	67,041
" " "	1887	- - -	68,496
" births "	1886	- - -	76,836
" " "	1887	- - -	93,223

	1886.	1887.
Includes judicial executions - - - -	20	16
and suicides - - - -	85	93

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31. The birth rate cannot, however, be accepted as accurate, and is certainly greater than the figures indicate, the registration of births not being compulsory, while the registration of deaths is enforced by law.

32. The Principal Civil Medical Officer reports that the health of the Colony during the year 1887 was not good, epidemic outbreaks of fever having occurred in the Western, Southern, and North-Western Provinces; and numerous cases of chicken-pox in the Western and Central Provinces. There was an outbreak of small-pox, causing 111 deaths, in the Southern Province, and there were 94 cases of this disease, with 18 deaths, in the Western Province.

33. On the other hand the Colony was entirely free of cholera.

34. The comparative table subjoined shows the number of hospitals open, the number of patients, and the death rate for the years 1886 and 1887:—

	Number open.		Number of Patients.		Number of Deaths.		Per-centage of Deaths to Patients.	
	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.
*Civil hospitals - -	25·	25·	22,385	22,752	2,316	2,084	10·14	9·11‡
†Medical Aid hospitals -	9·	9·	2,357	2,522	364	429	15·14	17·01
Immigrant hospitals -	6·	6·	1,686	1,689	152	129	9·0	7·6

* Includes De Soysa Lying-in-House.
† Includes dispensaries containing beds for urgent cases.
‡ The death-rate among Malabars was 2·99 per cent. less than in 1886.

The above are exclusive of the Leper Asylum, which gave shelter during 1887 to a daily average of 182·24 patients, as against 173·57 for 1886; of the new Lunatic Asylum, in which 467 insane persons were treated in 1887, as against 522 in 1886; and the Police Hospital. The old Lunatic Asylum was closed during the year, and a part of it is now occupied by the Victoria Home for Incurables, an institution founded in honour of Her Majesty's Jubilee, and a part by the Police Hospital, and it is proposed to adapt another wing of it as a Convict Hospital.

One hundred and four thousand patients were treated at the 51 outdoor dispensaries.

35. The expenditure of the Medical Department was Rs. 582,965 55 in 1887, as against Rs. 561,346 in 1886 and Rs. 544,535 in 1885; the receipts from paying patients at hospitals and dispensaries were Rs. 36,463 70 in 1887, and Rs. 26,270 05 in 1886.

36. The cost of working the Medical Aid Ordinance during the year as compared with 1886 is shown in the following table :—

C.

——	1886.	1887.	Increase in 1887 over 1886.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Total cost - -	149,172 25	163,460 24	14,287 99
Amount recovered from estates, on account of visits, medicines, &c. -	45,066 24	53,467 94	8,401 70
Balance to be met from export duty - -	104,106 01	109,992 30	5,886 29
Receipts from export duty	52,704 38	56,841 77	4,137 39
Deficit -	51,401 63	53,150 53	1,748 90

The number of patients treated appears in D. The increase of cost to the general revenue is trifling.

D.

——	1886.	1887.
Number of patients treated in the District hospitals -	2,357	2,522
Number of patients treated in the District dispensaries	18,222	26,907

37. The practice of animal vaccination was introduced at a trifling cost, and followed with success during 1887.

Education.

38. The proportion of children attending school to the whole population is improving steadily, being now for the whole Island 1 in every 22, whereas in 1886 it was 1 in 24, in 1885 1 in 26, and in 1884 1 in 27. The annexed table gives the comparative returns of attendance in Government, in grant-in-aid, and in unaided and Pansela or Buddhist Monastery Schools for 1886 and 1887.

CEYLON.

Return of Attendance in Government and other Schools.

—	No. of Schools in		Attended by				Average Number of Scholars per School in 1887.	Average cost to Government per Boy in		Average cost to Government per Girl in	
	1886.	1887.	Boys in 1886.	Boys in 1887.	Girls in 1886.	Girls in 1887.		1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.
Government schools -	425	440	25,059	27,560	4,594	5,005	74·	Rs. c. 5·58	Rs. c. 5.30	Rs. c. 5·35	Rs. c. 3·73
Grant-in-aid schools -	904	899	43,010	44,819	16,853	18,176	69·	3·02	2·97	Boys and Girls not distinguished.	
Grant-in-aid schools presented for examination -	849	899	—	44,819	—	18,176					
Unaided private schools -	442	543	9,981	12,557	2,596	3,395	29·	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pansela schools	1,684	1,749	10,379	9,042	Nil	Nil	5·	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total -	3,455	3,631	88,429	93,978	24,043	26,576	—	—	—	—	—

Total scholars in 1886 - - - 112,472
„ 1887 - - - 120,554

39. The following return shows the schools and scholars, omitting the unaided schools, classified into English, Anglo-Vernacular, and Vernacular, for the years 1886 and 1887:—

CEYLON.

—	Number of Schools.		Number of Boys on the List.		Number of Girls on the List		Total Number of Boys and Girls on the List.		Total Number of Scholars in Average Attendance.	
	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.
GOVERNMENT.										
English	3	3	372	333	—	—	372	333	314	292
Anglo-vernacular	26	25	2,572	2,412	247	278	2,819	2,690	1,639	1,677
Vernacular	596	412	22,115	24,875	4,347	4,667	26,462	29,542	14,368	16,288
GRANT-IN-AID.										
English	88	84	6,320	6,368	1,424	1,406	7,744	7,774	5,413	5,571
Anglo-vernacular	61	71	3,806	4,477	943	1,278	4,749	5,755	2,953	3,569
Vernacular	700	744	31,672	33,974	13,790	15,492	45,462	49,466	26,045	28,854
Total	1,274	1,339	66,857	72,439	20,751	23,121	87,608	95,560	50,732	56,251

C 6099.

40. The proportion which the number of the children attending school bears to the number of the population of the several provinces is as under:—

Western.	Central.	Northern.	Southern.	North-Western.	Eastern.	North-Central.	Uva.
1 in 16	1 in 48	1 in 13	1 in 24	1 in 43	1 in 16	1 in 102	1 in 96

41. The grant-in-aid training schools for teachers, which, with the Government classes for the same purpose, now replace the old Normal School, have been only partially successful in 1887, the number of entries and of passes being fewer in them than in 1886. The Government classes are, however, well reported of, and the number of certificated teachers is fully up to requirements.

41. In the course of the year the Director of Public Instruction, after conference with the school managers, prepared a new schedule for grants for primary English schools on a Vernacular basis, with the object of carrying out the recommendation of the Indian Educational Commission that English should be taught *as a language* through the medium of the Vernacular; the schedule has received the approval of the Government, and will come into force on the 1st January 1889, replacing the schedules in the existing Code for Anglo-vernacular schools and primary and middle English schools.

42. Six branch agricultural schools under young men trained in the Colombo School of Agriculture were opened in January 1887, and are in successful work.

43. The expenditure on education in 1887 was Rs. 454,716 10, as compared with Rs. 439,697 29 in 1886.

Criminal Statistics.

44. The figures for the last five years of cases and persons charged before the magistrates are as follows:—

—	No. of Persons charged before the Police Magistrates.	No. Discharged for want of Evidence or of Prosecution.	Per-centage of Persons discharged to Persons charged.	No. of Cases instituted.	No. of cases in which Convictions were obtained.	Per-centage of Cases Convicted in Police Courts to cases instituted.
In 1883 -	123,672	101,521	82·08	62,845	12,034	19·1
„ 1884 -	128,381	99,463	77·4	71,177	12,139	17·1
„ 1885* -	87,597	68,135	77·7	50,406	12,961	25·7
„ 1886 -	94,236	72,969	77·4	52,815	12,416	23·5
„ 1887 -	89,395	73,142	81·8	48,755	10,976	24·7

* The year of the introduction of the Codes.

The comparative figures in the foregoing table show a decrease in crime summarily punishable. The increased per-centages in the last column under the years 1885, 1886, 1887 are due to the increased punitive powers conferred under the Codes on police magistrates. The per-centage in column 4 appears to indicate that the alteration in procedure has not increased the probability of conviction.

45. The following is the comparative result for four years of cases tried in the superior courts :—

	Convictions.				Acquittals.			
	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
District Courts - - -	751	640	625	620	661	536	478	536
Supreme Court - - -	663	690	330	336	448	406	282	261

46. The diminution in the work done by the Supreme Court during the last two years is the result of the operation of the Penal Code, under which there are now tried in the District Court cases of a class which before had to be tried in the Supreme Court. A large number of cases formerly tried before district courts are now tried in police courts.

47. A table giving the comparative results of trials before the Supreme Court for murder and culpable homicide, not amounting to murder, is annexed :—

	Murder.		Culpable Homicide.		No. of Persons capitally executed.
	Convictions.	Acquittals.	Convictions.	Acquittals.	
1883 -	21	26	62	38	7
1884 -	19	44	62	25	11
1885 -	24	42	68	16	8
1886* -	48	34	21	13	18
1887 -	27	34	40	33	26

* The returns for 1886 do not properly distinguish between the graver and lesser descriptions of homicide. The number of persons in 1886 found guilty of murder and sentenced to death was really only 29.

48. The convictions for cattle stealing were 618 in 1887, compared with 540 and 496 in the two preceding years. The numbers in 1883 and in 1884 were 233 and 241. The increase marks, however, not an increase in offences, but an improvement through the Codes in the machinery for their repression. The

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increase in the figures of 1887 over 1886 is the effect of Ordinance No. 18 of 1887, under which a special magistrate was appointed to itinerate in the North-Western Province, where offences of this nature had attained alarming proportions.

Prisons.

49. The annexed table shows the number of prisoners, from whom are deducted Road Ordinance defaulters, prisoners sentenced to simple imprisonment, and women in the gaols during the past five years, and the daily average over the same period:—

——	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Total number of prisoners -	5,783	6,420	8,000	8,547	7,157
Daily average in prison of convicted persons - - -	2,688	2,673	3,448	3,627	3,314

The figures cannot be said to be encouraging, and the improvement of discipline generally in the prisons, with a view to the exaction from prisoners of harder, more regular, and more deterrent work, is engaging the attention of the Government.

50. The appended table of road defaulters imprisoned during the past ten years is evidence of the excellent results of the legislation of 1884, the full effect of which is now clearly appearing.

Road Ordinance Defaulters.

——	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Number of Road Ordinance defaulters committed - -	8,129	7,532	8,611	14,839	15,147	15,283	14,838	12,654	5,529	2,653
Daily average -	109	102	114	194	182	213	188	128	40	27

The total cost of the prisons in 1887 was Rs. 499,320.

E. NOEL WALKER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, 11th September 1888.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS

No. 30.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1888.

LONDON:
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1888.

[C.—5249.—27.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report) -	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	1
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1½
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent - -	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	„	1
27	Leeward Islands - -	„	3½
28	British Guiana - -	„	2
29	Western Australia - -	„	½

No. 30.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

[For previous reports *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4842]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4404]; 1881 [C.—4015]; 1880 [C.—3218].]

Governor KERR to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
June 12, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith two copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1887, with the following report thereon:—

Taxes and Duties.

There was no alteration during 1887.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1887 was 8,963*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, or 961*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* more than the estimated amount, which was 8,002*l.*

The excess under the several heads was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs - - - -	474	9	8
Rents, exclusive of land - -	44	4	0
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court -	19	18	0
Land revenue - - -	15	12	10
Postage - - - -	75	4	0
Miscellaneous receipts - -	12	6	0
Auction duty - - -	27	17	0
Sale of Crown lands - - -	321	0	0

Under the following heads there were deficiencies in the estimated receipts:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Licenses - - - -	5	8	0
Sale of Government property - -	23	11	8
Interest on investments - -	0	6	7

No aid was received from Imperial funds.

The expenditure in 1887 was 9,128*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, or 357*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* less than the estimated amount, which, inclusive of a supplemental vote of 860*l.* for public works, transport, and medical stores, was 9,410*l.*

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December 1887, inclusive of cash in the Colonial chest (2,227*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*), and in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies (1,850*l.* 11*s.* 0*d.*), was 6,326*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*

This balance includes 2,000*l.*, which has been invested in Colonial securities on account of land sales and 1,000*l.* on account of surplus funds; the gross interest on these investments amounts to 107*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.* annually.

There is no Public Debt.

Public Works.

There was an unusually large expenditure on the roads and drains of Stanley, amounting, inclusive of the purchase and freight of drain pipes, lime, cement, and paving tiles, to 740*l.*

An old storehouse was converted into a school-house, to replace that which was destroyed by the peat-slip in June 1886, at a cost of 130*l.* The parsonage, one of the oldest wooden buildings in the Settlement, was put in complete repair, including new roofing, at a cost of 138*l.* Materials were procured for fencing in the dockyard and the Government garden, at a cost, including freight, of 210*l.* Rooms were fitted up in the Government offices for a post office and a printing office, and repairs were made to the gaol, the police guard-room, the barracks, the Government House and offices, and to several of the cottages used as police quarters, or rented out at a total cost of 90*l.* An excavation was commenced for enlarging and improving the public reservoir, a cutting was made from the reservoir to a spring in the suburbs of Stanley, and an iron pipe laid for conveying the spring water to the reservoir at a cost of 188*l.*, exclusive of the value of the pipes, which were already in store. The aggregate cost of the foregoing works was 1,496*l.*, to which must be added the cost of peat cutting, of tools and implements, and of some furniture for the Government House, part of a supply voted and sanctioned in 1886, but by delay in shipment included in the account for 1887, bringing up the total expenditure under the head of Public Works to 1,780*l.*

Legislation.

Four Ordinances were passed in 1887 :—

No. 1.—"An Ordinance to enable aliens to hold and dispose of land in the Falkland Islands."

This Ordinance was passed on the 20th January, and was confirmed and allowed on the 18th of March following. It contains certain provisions of a retrospective nature, having reference to property previously acquired in Stanley by an alien.

No. 2.—"An Ordinance to make further provision for the service of the Colony of the Falkland Islands for the years 1884, 1885, and 1886."

This Ordinance was passed on the 12th of September, and was confirmed and allowed on the 11th of November following. The object of the Ordinance was to sanction excess of actual over estimated expenditure under several heads in the accounts of the years to which it refers.

No. 3.—"An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Colony of the Falkland Islands for the year 1888."

This Ordinance was passed on the 12th of September, and received the Royal Assent on the 12th of November following.

No. 4.—"An Ordinance to make further provision for the service of the Colony of the Falkland Islands for the year 1887."

This Ordinance was passed on the 15th of December for the purpose of making provision for services insufficiently provided for by the Appropriation Ordinance for 1887.

Legislative Council.

Mr. J. M. Dean, senior unofficial member of the Legislative Council, left the Colony on the 12th of March on leave of absence for 12 months.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. E. Pakenham Brooks, Colonial Secretary, and Police Magistrate, was absent from the Colony on leave throughout the year. The duties of Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, Coroner, Postmaster, Collector of Customs, Harbour Master, and Police Magistrate were performed by Mr. H. B. L. Jameson, the Government Clerk. The duties of Government Clerk, Shipping Master, Registrar General, Registrar of Courts, Receiver of Wrecks, and Clerk of Councils were performed by Mr. Mark Kerr, Private Secretary to the Governor.

Mr. B. T. Henston, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, who has been appointed a Medical Officer in Western Australia, continued on leave of absence from this Colony, and received half salary to the 31st of January, when his service expired. Mr. Henston's duties were principally in connexion with the district in the possession of the Falkland Islands Company, who have since employed a surgeon at their own expense, thus rendering the appointment of an Assistant Colonial Surgeon, in succession to Mr. Henston unnecessary.

Mr. A. T. Anderson, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, who was stationed on West Falkland Island, died on the 20th of May and the appointment remained vacant during the rest of the year.

Pensions.

There was no change under this head. The annual charge for pensions continued to be 235*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

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Population.

There were 61 births during 1887, of which number 34 were males and 27 were females.

There were 11 marriages.

Eighteen deaths were registered, of which 12 were males and six were females.

The causes of death were as follows:—

Infantile diseases	4
Accidental deaths	3
Paralysis	1
Heart disease	2
Dropsy	1
Cirrhosis of the liver	1
Bronchitis	1
Consumption	5
Total	18

The health of the population was, as usual, good throughout the year.

Of the 18 deaths registered, two were Fuegian Indians, who died at the Keppel Island Mission Station of a form of lung disease, to which these people are peculiarly liable, and three were mariners in vessels casually arriving at Stanley, so that there were only 13 deaths amongst the resident population. Of these, six were in Stanley and seven in other parts of the Colony.

The following report from the Colonial Surgeon applies only to Stanley to which his practice is confined:—

The Colonial Surgeon to the Colonial Secretary.

"Sir,

"I have the honour to furnish a report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, on the sanitary condition of Stanley for the year 1887.

"I am happy to state that, notwithstanding the great increase of population—it being nearly double what it was when I arrived in this Colony in 1879—the death rate from preventable diseases is low; a few sporadic cases of enteric fever of a mild type, the usual number of cases of febrilla, catarrh, coryza, varicella, and rheumatism.

"It is rather unfortunate that a very large number of persons, both children and adults, suffer from a severe form of tonsillitis, but in many cases it can be traced to a scrofulous origin.

"On the whole the Settlement may be congratulated on its healthy state.

"I have, &c.

"SAMUEL HAMILTON,

"Colonial Surgeon."

The number of the population, which was assumed to be 1,800 on the 31st of December 1886, was increased to 1,843 on the 31st of December 1887, by the excess of births over deaths.

Education.

The Colonial Chaplain, who performs the duties of School Inspector, made the following report:—

Education Report, Falkland Islands, 1887.

"The number of children on the rolls in the Government infant and senior schools, Stanley, during the year were 92 and 95 respectively.

"The average attendance was 65 and 70 respectively, thus showing a slight improvement over the previous year.

"I had not the opportunity of visiting this year the only other school in the islands, viz., the Falkland Islands Company's school at Darwin, but I believe it was continued as usual.

"The Penny Savings Bank connected with the Government schools continued its operations; at the close of the year there were 88 depositors, and 582*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* due to them.

"I again venture to call his Excellency the Governor's attention to the following:—

"*First.*—That there are many children in Stanley of school age who seldom or never enter the schools and are receiving no education at home; this will continue through the neglect of their parents until education is made compulsory.

"*Second.*—That as the children attending the infant school vary very much in age—from 5 to 13 years of age—proper attention cannot be given to them by the infant schoolmistress and her assistant during the summer months, when the attendance has at times reached 90 children. Consequently, during the summers of 1886 and 1887 a second assistant was paid by private subscription.

"*Third.*—The state of education in the country parts of the islands is deplorable, nothing whatever having been done during the year either by Government or the lessees of Crown lands towards the education of the children scattered throughout the islands, with the exception of the school established in Darwin by the Falkland Islands Company, where the few children resident in Darwin receive instruction.

"(Signed) LOWTHER E. BRANDON,
"Government School Inspector."

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports in 1887 was 66,785*l.* In 1886 it was 73,602*l.*, and in 1885 it was 48,314*l.*

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The value of the exports in 1887 was 107,995*l.* In 1886 it was 108,946*l.*, and in 1885 it was 97,846*l.*

The following table represents the relative value of the several articles of export during the six years ending with 1887 :—

	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wool - - - -	57,655	68,313	74,652	82,113	72,998	80,065
Tallow - - - -	10,120	8,735	13,314	3,360	3,640	4,475
Sheep skins - - -	3,893	4,345	5,686	5,125	3,813	5,039
Hides - - - -	4,819	2,775	4,242	4,727	1,850	515
Old metal - - - -	339	306	196	350	—	70
Sealskins - - - -	—	—	191	—	—	12
Seal oil - - - -	—	—	125	—	—	—
Hair, bones, and bone ash -	20	118	62	93	8	—
Live sheep - - - -	—	2,400	2,720	2,078	10,949	3,314
Live horses - - -	—	—	150	—	—	—
Frozen mutton - - -	—	—	—	—	15,070	13,882
Live geese - - - -	—	—	—	—	18	—
Specie - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	623
Total - - -	76,846	86,992	101,338	97,846	108,946	107,995

Shipping.

Thirty-five sailing vessels arrived in the Colony in 1887; the tonnage of the whole was 21,535; and the crews numbered 525. Of these, only 18 were engaged in the trade of the Colony, and they arrived at the following places :—

Port Stanley	-	-	-	9
San Carlos (East Island)	-	-	-	1
Port Howard (West Island)	-	-	-	1
Roy Cove	,,	-	-	1
West Point	,,	-	-	1
Hill Cove	,,	-	-	1
Shallow Bay	,,	-	-	2
Pebble Island	-	-	-	1
Weddell Island	-	-	-	1

Of the remaining 17, two were yachts visiting the islands on their respective voyages, seven vessels called for provisions and water or for medical assistance. One vessel put in because her cargo of coal was heated and sailed again as soon as the danger was overcome, and seven vessels arrived in distress, having been more or less damaged by furious gales encountered in the passage round Cape Horn. They were all repaired and proceeded on their respective voyages.

The Kosmos Company's steamers arrived regularly with the monthly mails, and two extra steamers of that line called for coal.

The steamship "Selembria" took two cargoes of frozen mutton and other goods for London, and the steamship "Granville" brought out supplies to the stations on the West Falkland and adjacent islands, and took a full cargo of wool from thence without coming to Port Stanley.

Her Majesty's ships "Ready," "Swallow," and "Watchful" visited the islands during the close season of the seal fishery, and the United States ship of war "Juanita" visited Port Stanley in January on her way to the Pacific. The American yacht "Brunhilde" with her owner, Mr. J. J. Phelps, called at Port Stanley on her return to New York from a voyage round the world, and Captain Dewar's yacht, the "Nyanza," of the Royal Yacht Squadron, also visited the islands on her way to the Pacific and Australia.

Criminal Statistics.

These are happily very scanty and unimportant.

There was only one conviction in the Supreme Court during the year. The case was a criminal prosecution for libel.

Thirty-seven persons were summarily convicted before the police magistrate. Of these 30 were punished by fines, and seven by peremptory imprisonment. Those who were imprisoned were refractory seamen.

Climate.

I am indebted to Mr. Cobb, of the Falkland Islands Company, for the following meteorological information :—

	Temperature.			Humidity (Saturation = 100).	Rain.		Average Cloud (Overcast = 10).
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.		Inches.	Days.	
January - -	62·8	36·2	50·9	83	4·36	24	7·6
February - -	60·8	37·3	52·1	81	2·24	16	5·8
March - - -	62·7	33·4	49·8	85	1·82	18	6·1
April - - -	50·8	31·7	43·4	90	2·23	21	6·7
May - - -	48·0	30·6	41·3	91	2·18	21	7·0
June - - -	44·0	17·0	34·6	93	3·89	25	7·4
July - - -	44·2	20·2	37·5	95	1·65	20	7·1
August - -	40·8	21·8	34·0	90	2·58	25	7·3
September - -	49·0	20·8	36·2	86	1·49	21	8·3
October - -	62·2	29·6	43·3	82	1·18	12	7·0
November - -	69·5	35·3	48·5	79	1·05	12	7·0
December - -	66·1	34·1	49·7	75	3·37	19	6·6
Totals and Means -	—	—	43·4	86	28·24	234	7·0

FORCE OF WIND.

Stormy - -	62 days.	Moderate breeze -	75 days.
Strong breeze - -	70 „	Light breeze - -	113 „
Fresh breeze - -	39 „	Calm - - -	6 „

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

General Remarks.

The winter of 1887 was unusually long, and from the lateness of the spring and consequent insufficiency of herbage the ewes were so poor at the lambing season that numbers of the lambs perished; the increase of the flocks during the year was therefore far below the average, but in all other respects the prosperity of the Colony has continued to advance, and the loss of sheep from the disease to which, since 1884, they have been liable in the shearing and clipping season was far less in 1887 than in the three previous years.

The failure of the Frozen Meat Company is much to be regretted. The Company's chartered steamer "Selembria" took two cargoes to London in 1887, after which, from financial causes, the operations of the company ceased. It is said that the enterprise was conducted with unnecessary expense, and it is hoped that more prudent and economical arrangements will lead to the entire success of a renewal of this valuable addition to the exports of the Colony. Meanwhile, as most of the sheep-stations are not yet fully stocked, the prosperity of the sheep farmers will not be affected by the temporary cessation of the exportation of frozen meat.

The exportation of ewes to the new settlements in the Argentine and Chilian territories was not so great in 1887 as in 1886, but higher than in the three previous years. This branch of export is likely to be continued for, perhaps, a couple of years longer, after which it is probable that the demand will have ceased.

The peace of the Colony was undisturbed during the year, the gaol was closed for 240 days, and was only occupied during the other 125 days by naval prisoners undergoing punishment on warrants signed by officers commanding Her Majesty's ships on the station, and for 14 days of the same period by some refractory seamen committed, under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Acts, on the complaint of the ship master. No resident in the Colony suffered imprisonment.

The financial condition of the Colony continued to be most satisfactory.

The revenue amounted to 8,963*l.*, and the expenditure to 9,128*l.* The slight excess of expenditure over revenue was caused by an unusual outlay on public works, and made no appreciable difference in the large accumulated balance in hand, which amounted at the end of the year to 6,326*l.* Of this balance 3,000*l.* continues invested in Guaranteed Colonial Stock and yields interest at the rate of 107*l.* a year.

The celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee was observed in this, as in all other parts of her dominions, with every manifestation of loyalty and affection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. KERR,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

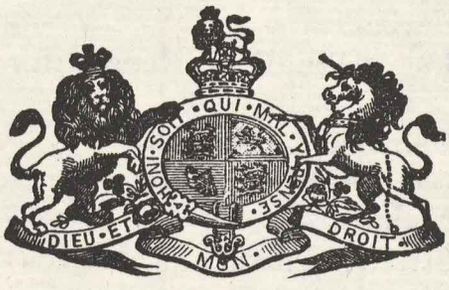
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 34.

FIJI.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
December 1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249.—37.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1 8	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 18 7).	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1½
24	Straits(Penang andMalacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent - -	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	„	1
27	Leeward Islands - -	„	3½
28	British Guiana - -	„	2
29	Western Australia -	„	½
30	Falkland Islands - -	„	1
31	Basutoland - -	„	1½
32	St. Lucia - -	„	1½
33	Hong Kong - -	„	1½

No. 34.

FIJI.

[For the Report for 1886, *see* C.—5239.]

Governor Sir J. B. THURSTON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Suva, Fiji,
August 29, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a very full and able report upon the Blue Book of this Colony, which has been prepared by Mr. James Stewart, the chief clerk of the Colonial Secretary's Office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, YEAR 1887.

I.—TAXES, DUTIES, FEES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE.

The alterations during the year have been as follows:—

(1.) *Native Taxes.*

An adjustment of assessment was made in respect of certain provinces, but the total assessment remained the same as that of the year 1886, viz., 17,700*l.*

(2.) *Customs Dues.*

No alteration was made on the rate of import dues. By Ordinance No. XI. of 1887 an export duty of 2*l.* per ton was imposed on Colonial bêche-de-mer.

Simultaneously with this Ordinance a Regulation was passed throwing open all the reefs within the Colony for the fishing of bêche-de-mer on payment of a license fee of two pounds (2*l.*) per annum for each vessel engaged in the industry.

All the shore reefs and some of the deep-sea reefs had hitherto been regarded as the exclusive property of the natives, but it was

o 56091. Wt. 18427.

Fiji.

believed that the valuable bêche-de-mer fisheries were neglected by them. At the annual council of Chiefs held in May 1887 the matter was placed before the Chiefs who, after consideration, advised the Governor that so long as the rightful interest of the natives in the reefs was recognised all reefs should be free to bêche-de-mer fishing. The Ordinance and Regulation above referred to were subsequently passed, to have force for only one year. It was provided that, in recognition of the exclusive privileges hitherto enjoyed by the natives, the proceeds of the export duty should be divided among the several provinces in ratio to the quantity of bêche-de-mer procured within the boundaries of each.

(3.) *Water Rate.*

Provision has been made for the levying of a special charge for water delivered by pipes in the town of Suva for other than domestic purposes.

(4.) *Lunatic Asylum.*

A scale of charges for the maintenance and treatment of lunatics has been fixed, as follows:—

For Europeans, for the first three months, 10*s.* per diem; afterwards, 6*s.* 8*d.* per diem.

For Natives, &c., for the first three months, 2*s.* per diem; afterwards, 1*s.* 6*d.* per diem.

(5.) *Indian Interpreters.*

By Ordinance No. XIV. of 1887 a scale of fees to be charged to suitors for the use of the Court interpreters of Hindustani has been enacted.

(6.) *Wreck and Salvage.*

Ordinance No. I. of 1887 has provided for the payment of fees to receivers of wreck and salvage.

(7.) *Indian Immigration Documents.*

A scale of fees to be paid for duplicates of documents connected with the indenture, commutation, and residence of Indian immigrants has been fixed by Ordinance No. XVII. of 1887.

(8.) *Gunpowder Storage.*

The table of fees to be charged in connexion with the storage of gunpowder and explosives has been revised, a new tariff being enacted by Ordinance No. IV. of 1887.

II.—Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue and expenditure for each year since the foundation of the Colony, distinguishing between expenditure under the head of establishments and contingent expenditure, are set forth in the following statement:—

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure, as audited, for the Years from 1875 *to* 1887 *inclusive.*

	Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.		Total Expenditure.
			Establishments.	Exclusive of Establishments.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Inclusive of Immigration Accounts.	1875	16,433 2 8	15,732 4 3	25,790 10 4	41,522 14 7
	1876	40,524 11 11	23,788 15 8	44,847 14 6	68,636 10 2
	1877	46,688 9 7	24,650 8 1	39,862 0 10	64,512 8 11
	1878	61,021 2 8	23,650 9 1	41,616 1 8	65,266 10 9
	1879	67,771 0 5	27,759 11 4	43,348 18 3	71,108 9 7
	1880	80,678 3 2	22,306 7 7	68,795 19 6	91,102 7 1
	1881	87,442 18 8	30,669 16 6	59,290 12 9	89,960 9 3
	1882	111,314 7 2	30,491 10 8	79,494 17 6	109,986 8 2
Exclusive of Immigration.	1883	106,814 5 7	35,440 9 1	52,836 10 10	88,276 19 11
	1884	91,522 19 5	39,235 2 0	59,232 17 2	98,467 19 2
	1885	76,668 19 10	42,458 9 0	49,750 13 11	92,209 2 11
	1886	64,574 1 1	38,407 2 6	39,726 5 8	78,133 8 2
	1887	64,916 2 9	33,499 7 8	39,651 5 5	73,150 13 1

The total receipts and expenditure for the year 1887 were in detail as follows:—

Statement showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure in the Year 1887.

Receipts.	Amount Estimated.	Amount received in the Colony.	Amount received by Crown Agents.	Total Receipts.	More than Estimated.	Less than Estimated.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs dues -	30,000 0 0	24,668 15 2	—	24,668 15 2	—	5,331 4 10
Warehouse and wharfage dues	3,600 0 0	3,217 0 7	—	3,217 0 7	—	382 19 5
Pilotage, light, and shipping dues - -	1,900 0 0	1,518 5 1	—	1,518 5 1	—	381 14 11
General licenses	4,000 0 0	3,667 3 0	—	3,667 3 0	—	332 17 0
Native taxes -	16,000 0 0	16,416 10 2	—	16,416 10 2	416 10 2	—

Receipts.	Amount Estimated.	Amount received in the Colony.	Amount received by Crown Agents.	Total Receipts.	More than Estimated.	Less than Estimated.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fees, fines, and forfeitures -	2,200 0 0	1,909 1 5	—	1,909 1 5	—	290 18 7
Postal dues -	2,300 0 0	1,698 1 1	793 17 5	2,491 18 6	191 18 6	—
Stamps - -	1,250 0 0	970 18 10	—	970 18 10	—	279 1 2
Hospitals -	2,000 0 0	2,659 15 6	15 17 0	2,675 12 6	675 12 6	—
Freights - -	50 0 0	60 11 6	—	60 11 6	10 11 6	—
Miscellaneous -	5,300 0 0	3,926 2 10	22 13 9	3,948 16 7	—	1,351 3 5
Fees on Crown grants and surveys -	620 0 0	670 8 3	—	670 8 3	50 8 3	—
Land sales -	500 0 0	529 14 6	—	529 14 6	29 14 6	—
Suva water rate	639 0 0	531 18 9	—	531 18 9	—	107 1 3
Registration fees	400 0 0	245 12 2	—	245 12 2	—	154 7 10
Native industrial school -	250 0 0	283 18 9	—	283 18 9	33 18 9	—
Receipts, labour depôt - -	1,000 0 0	1,103 0 6	—	1,103 0 6	103 0 6	—
Repayment of former advances for returning Polynesian immigrants -	150 0 0	6 16 6	—	6 16 6	—	143 3 6
Total -	72,159 0 0	64,083 14 7	832 8 2	64,916 2 9	1,511 14 8	8,754 11 11

(*Continued.*)

Payments.	Amount Estimated.	Amount expended in the Colony.	Amount expended by Crown Agents.	Total Payments.	More than Estimated.	Less than Estimated.
Establishments.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries: Fixed - - Provisional and temporary -	34,912 10 7	32,814 2 11	685 4 9	33,499 7 8	—	1,413 2 11
Exclusive of Establishments.						
Pensions - -	125 0 0	116 5 1	—	116 5 1	—	8 14 11
Judicial - -	1,162 10 0	1,132 0 4	—	1,132 0 4	—	30 9 8
Colonial Secretary - -	4,045 0 0	4,018 14 3	167 16 6	4,186 10 9	141 10 9	—
Medical - -	1,130 0 0	1,438 12 5	55 12 4	1,494 4 9	364 4 9	—
Suva hospital -	1,529 10 0	1,414 6 10	—	1,414 6 10	—	115 3 2
Lunatic asylum	475 0 0	393 4 8	—	393 4 8	—	81 15 4
Hospital, Levuka	587 10 0	210 9 9	—	210 9 9	—	377 0 3
Rent - - -	616 17 0	701 16 0	—	701 16 0	84 19 0	—
Public works -	3,284 0 0	1,493 9 11	3,097 9 1	4,590 19 0	1,306 19 0	—
Surveys - -	525 0 0	459 10 2	—	459 10 2	—	65 9 10
Police - -	250 0 0	169 12 0	—	169 12 0	—	80 8 0

Payments.	Amount Estimated.	Amount expended in the Colony.	Amount expended by Crown Agents.	Total Payments.	More than Estimated.	Less than Estimated.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Prisons - -	205 0 0	171 4 7	—	171 4 7	—	33 15 5
Armed native constabulary -	150 0 0	118 7 8	22 4 2	140 11 10	—	9 8 2
Postal - -	1,210 0 0	1,334 3 6	—	1,334 3 6	124 3 6	—
Treasury - -	3,636 14 4	3,512 16 0	79 13 0	3,592 9 0	—	44 5 4
Public debt -	8,970 0 0	713 10 9	8,423 5 0	9,136 15 9	166 15 9	—
Harbour office -	532 10 0	346 17 5	37 12 0	384 9 5	—	148 0 7
Education -	1,254 7 6	1,288 5 3	—	1,288 5 3	33 17 9	—
Stores - -	110 0 0	117 2 2	—	117 2 2	7 2 2	—
Provincial - -	384 0 0	378 10 5	—	378 10 5	—	5 9 7
General transport - -	400 0 0	391 1 10	47 7 5	438 9 3	38 9 3	—
Immigration -	4,459 10 0	4,539 9 4	—	4,539 9 4	79 19 4	—
Miscellaneous -	3,717 10 0	3,037 17 3	222 18 4	3,260 15 7	—	456 14 5
Total -	73,672 9 5	60,311 10 6	12,839 2 7	73,150 13 1	2,348 1 3	2,869 17 7

The revenue fell short of the estimate by 7,242*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*
The expenditure was less than the estimate by 521*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*
There was a net deficit for the year of 8,234*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*

Revenue.

The following comparative statement shows in respect of the years 1886 and 1887 :—

(1.) The amount of receipts under each particular head of revenue.

(2.) The proportion which each item bears to the total revenue. (The figures for 1885 are also given for comparison.)

(3.) The amounts by which the several items of revenue of the year 1887 exceed or fall short of the receipts under the same heads during the year 1886.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing (1) Amount, (2) Proportion, (3) Increase and Decrease, of Revenue under each Head, Years 1886–7.

Head of Receipt.	Year 1885.	Year 1886.		Year 1887.		1887.	1887.
	Proportion from each Head.	Revenue collected.	Proportion from each Head.	Revenue collected.	Proportion from each Head.	Increase over 1886.	Decrease from 1886.
	Per cent.	£ s. d.	Per cent.	£ s. d.	Per cent.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs dues	41·23	29,351 11 4	45·45	24,668 15 2	38·00	—	4,682 16 2
Warehouse and wharfage dues	5·48	3,606 12 6	5·58	3,217 0 7	4·95	—	389 11 11
Pilotage, light, and shipping dues	2·47	1,807 7 1	2·79	1,518 5 1	2·34	—	289 2 0
General licenses	5·45	3,954 9 6	6·13	3,667 3 0	5·65	—	287 6 6
Native taxes	22·29	9,463 12 11	14·65	16,416 10 2	25·29	6,952 17 3	—
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	2·66	2,395 14 7	3·71	1,909 1 5	2·94	—	486 13 2
Postal dues	2·78	2,058 4 1	3·18	2,491 18 6	3·84	433 14 5	—
Stamps	2·53	1,302 3 8	2·01	970 18 10	1·49	—	331 4 10
Hospitals	3·62	2,198 14 5	3·40	2,675 12 6	4·12	476 18 1	—
Freights	·49	49 10 0	·07	60 11 6	·09	11 1 6	—
Miscellaneous	5·35	4,482 7 5	6·94	3,948 16 7	6·08	—	533 10 10
Fees on Crown grants and surveys	1·31	916 11 9	1·41	670 8 3	1·03	—	246 3 6
Land sales	·89	877 0 2	1·36	529 14 6	·81	—	347 5 8
Suva water rate	Nil.	—	Nil.	531 18 9	·82	531 18 9	—
Registration fees	·68	335 14 0	·51	245 12 2	·38	—	90 1 10
Native industrial school	·16	280 19 8	·43	283 18 9	·44	2 19 1	—
Receipts, labour depôt	2·08	1,151 7 6	1·78	1,103 0 6	1·69	—	48 7 0
Repayment of former advances for returning Polynesian immigrants	·45	342 0 6	·53	6 16 6	·01	—	335 4 0
Total	—	64,574 1 1	—	64,916 2 9	—	8,409 9 1	8,067 7 5
Net Increase	—	—	—	—	—	342 1 8	—

The revenue of the year 1887, although 7,242*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* under the estimate, exceeds the revenue of the year 1886 by the sum of 342*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* It has, however, to be observed that a new item, Suva water rate, which did not exist in the previous year, returns a revenue of 531*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* But for this new item the revenue would have been a trifle less than that of the preceding year.

But while the revenue of the year 1887 thus closely assimilates to that of the previous year, it will be seen that the items making up the total amount vary considerably. On the items which form a gauge of commercial activity (the first four on the list) there is a general falling off as compared with the year 1886, amounting in the aggregate to 5,648*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* The revenue from the items in question is 6,428*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* below the estimate. This decrease was owing to the continued agricultural and commercial depression. The remaining items of decrease represent less than 30 per cent. of the gross decrease, and may be regarded as incidental.

On the other hand it is seen that over four fifths of the gross increase over the revenue of the year 1886 arises from the item "native taxes." Here it has to be borne in mind in instituting a comparison between the total revenue of the two years, which at first glance appear to be about equal, that the contribution from native taxes to the revenue of the year 1886 was, by reason of the disastrous effects of the hurricanes of that year, lower by 5,000*l.* than the receipts of any other year, and lower by 6,952*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* than the receipts from the same source during the year 1887. A true comparison between the revenue of the two years can thus be best obtained after the deduction of the item on native taxes from each. This being done, the respective amounts of revenue are as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1886 - - - -	55,110	8	2
1887 - - - -	48,499	12	7
Decrease of the year 1887 on other items of revenue - -	6,610	15	7

The revenue derived from native taxes during each year since 1877, and the proportion which the same has borne to the total revenue of each year (excluding revenue received in connexion with the introduction and return of Polynesian immigrants) are as follows, viz.:—

Year.	Amount of Native Taxes.	Proportion to Total Revenue.
	£ *s.* *d.*	
1877 - - - -	15,103 19 8	36·41
1878 - - - -	18,178 11 6	36·79
1879 - - - -	19,885 1 3	38·01

Year.	Amount of Native Taxes.	Proportion to Total Revenue.
	£ s. d.	
1880 - - - -	15,485 11 7	26·41
1881 - - - -	14,285 13 3	19·66
1882 - - - -	16,373 8 8	18·09
1883 - - - -	18,634 5 4	17·44
1884 - - - -	17,734 1 11	19·37
1885 - - - -	17,094 6 3	22·29
1886 - - - -	9,463 12 11	14·65
1887 - - - -	16,416 10 2	25·29

This item of revenue is not to any appreciable extent affected by commercial or agricultural depression or by anything, save, as in the year 1886, by that class of incidents which are commonly called the direct visitation of God.

Although in certain years the total amount of revenue derived from native taxes may, in consequence of some districts failing to complete their proportion, have fallen short of the total assessment, there have, during each year since the institution of the Native Taxation Scheme, been refunds made to certain provinces which had contributed produce that realised a surplus on their assessment. The refunds thus made are in detail as follows;—

Refunds of Surplus Native Taxes.

Statement of Refunds made to the various Provinces of Fiji from 1877 *to* 1887.

Province.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tailevu - - -	112 17 9	447 8 8	930 19 0	65 1 1	633 3 4	985 18 8	1,054 6 4	1,184 11 9	1,701 10 3	€25 6 10	671 13 6	8,412 17 2
Bua - - - -	221 7 4	—	144 4 7	—	144 11 6	—	—	93 15 0	45 9 3	—	—	649 8 5
Lau - - - -	333 6 10	581 3 4	180 8 7	—	—	656 8 9	848 10 6	620 18 9	378 13 10	—	—	3,599 10 7
Macuata - - -	7 19 11	—	—	—	—	93 6 0	390 1 3	61 13 8	—	—	—	553 0 10
Lomaiviti - - -	232 11 4	351 13 10	1,329 18 9	789 12 6	204 9 10	119 13 5	623 10 11	1,008 11 7	503 0 8	—	—	5,163 2 10
Ba and Yasawa - -	24 3 1	496 7 10	286 15 11	288 6 5	18 7 0	320 13 2	484 10 8	49 4 3	332 12 9	51 9 0	728 6 8	3,080 16 9
Rewa - - -	8 0 5	—	—	—	—	—	382 5 1	326 4 1	795 3 11	33 2 3	39 9 9	1,584 5 6
Kadavu - - -	—	147 5 0	525 5 0	—	240 7 7	—	702 2 8	—	18 19 5	—	33 1 3	1,667 0 11
Ra - - - -	—	465 1 6	485 19 11	9 9 9	—	—	—	154 0 4	—	—	222 16 4	1,337 7 10
Nadroga - - -	—	248 14 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	248 14 4
Naitasiri - - -	—	—	381 11 4	63 6 6	27 5 9	1,111 10 10	566 17 10	198 1 10	278 12 2	435 17 2	—	3,063 3 5
Namosi - - -	—	—	—	37 4 9	—	93 1 8	2 0 0	—	—	43 0 11	—	175 7 4
Serua - - -	—	—	—	42 14 10	22 10 7	10 16 0	123 14 9	521 14 1	46 0 7	163 0 5	—	930 11 3
Colo - - - -	—	—	—	10 0 0	—	150 0 0	74 0 0	93 6 6	—	21 7 0	156 16 8	505 10 2
Cakaudrove - -	—	—	—	222 18 0	48 8 2	—	421 1 7	—	755 16 0	—	351 15 2	1,799 18 11
Rotumah - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29 18 6	119 16 3	—	96 19 9	246 14 6
Totals -	940 6 8	2,737 14 6	4,265 3 1	1,528 13 10	1,339 3 9	3,541 8 6	5,673 1 7	4,342 1 1	4,975 15 1	1,373 3 7	2,300 19 1	33,017 10 9

From the foregoing return it will be seen that during the 11 years ending with the year 1887 a sum of thirty-three thousand pounds (33,000*l.*) had been paid by the Treasury as refunds of surplus taxes.

The comparative increase in the hospital receipts is owing mainly to payments made from public funds on account of some outstanding claims for treatment of immigrant, prison, and pauper patients.

The items of direct taxation (*i.e.*, customs dues, native taxes, general licenses, and stamp duties) contributed in each of the past three years the undernoted proportions of the total revenue, viz. :—

1885 - - - - - - -	70·50
1886 - - - - - - -	68·24
1887 - - - - - - -	70·43

Expenditure.

The following statement shows the expenditure for the year as compared with that of last year :—

Detail.	1886.	1885.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil establishment - - -	30,984 4 2	27,078 13 1
Contingent expenditure - - -	32,951 15 2	35,142 4 5
Judicial establishment - - -	7,422 18 4	6,420 14 7
Contingent expenditure - -	1,500 14 5	1,132 0 4
Miscellaneous - - - -	5,030 16 1	3,260 15 7
Pensions - - - -	243 0 0	116 5 1
Total - - -	78,133 8 2	73,150 13 1

The expenditure is 521*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* under the estimate, and is less than the expenditure of the year 1886 by 4,982*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*

The reduction in the cost of establishments, civil and judicial, has been attained by the abolition and amalgamation of offices, and by the imposition of a tax on the salaries of all civil servants in receipt of over 200*l.* per annum. This tax was at the following rate, viz. :—

On salaries over 200*l.* and under 350*l.* per annum, five per centum.

On salaries of 350*l.* per annum and over, ten per centum.

The comparative increase under Civil Contingent Expenditure was principally owing to the payment of the cost of the material and labour for the erection of the Solo Lighthouse. This light-house was almost brought to completion within the year. The amount on this account charged to current expenditure was 3,378*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

As compared with the year 1885, the revenue of the year 1887 is less by 11,752*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, and the expenditure less by 19,158*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*

The deficit as between revenue and expenditure during each of the past three years has been as follows, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1885 - - - - -	15,540	3	1
1886 - - - - -	13,559	7	1
1887 - - - - -	8,234	10	4

There is every hope that in the year now current (1888) the expenditure will be within the revenue.

III.—Municipal and Local Revenues.

The gross revenue and expenditure of the local town and school boards for the year 1887 were as follows, viz.:—

Board.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Suva Town Board - - -	1,274	6	3	1,319	7	10
Suva School Board - -	673	3	7	681	17	10
Levuka Town Board - -	999	4	5	888	3	2
Levuka School Board - -	770	16	4	702	18	8
Total - - -	3,717	10	7	3,592	7	6

Of the school board revenue the sum of 525*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* was contributed as Government grant.

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IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt has not been altered during the year, except by the payment of the half-yearly liquidation provided by statute. The public debt consists of the following items, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Imperial grant-in-aid on annexation	-		-	104,025	7	11
2. Imperial grant in payment of compensation to German subjects in respect of disallowed land claims, and costs of commission	-		-	11,364	6	7
Total Imperial grants (bearing no interest)	-		-	115,389	14	6
3. Loan for payment of liabilities of late so-called Government of the Fiji Islands (100,000*l.*) Public Works and Immigration (50,000*l.*) bearing interest at 4½ per cent. - - -	150,000	0	0			
Less amount repaid	10,000	0	0			
				140,000	0	0
Total debt	-		-	255,389	14	6

The floating indebtedness of the Colony amounted at 31st December 1887 to the sum of 48,635*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, made up of the following items, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Bank overdraft - - -	31,173	18	1
Outstanding cheques - -	13,452	19	1
Mails - - - -	58	17	6
Quarter's interest, loan - -	2,425	2	9
Interest, Bank of New Zealand -	562	0	0
1887 accounts outstanding - -	239	0	10
Deposits due by Colonial Government	723	2	11
Total - -	48,635	1	2

The position of the Colony at 31st December 1887 is shown in the following statement of assets and liabilities, viz. :—

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on the 31st December 1887.

ASSETS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advances due to the Colony -		376 9 1	Deposits due by Colonial Government, per attached statement	540 15 4	
PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT—			Rotumah Refund -	182 7 7	
Fixed deposits at interest -	16,296 18 6				723 2 11
Credit balance with Bank of New Zealand 31st December 1887 - -	4,956 6 3		PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT—		
		21,253 4 9	Wages and return passage money of Polynesian labourers - - - -		21,253 4 9
INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT—					
Fixed deposits at interest -	1,500 0 0				
Credit balance with Bank of New Zealand, 31st December 1887 - -	200 15 0		INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT—		
		1,700 15 0	Balance standing to credit of above estates		1,750 15 0
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS INTRODUCTION FUND—					
Fixed deposits at interest -	4,020 0 0				
Credit balance with Bank of New Zealand, 31st December 1887 - -	948 13 1				
Credit balance with Emigration agent, Calcutta, 31st December 1887	325 3 0		INDIAN IMMIGRANTS INTRODUCTION FUND—		
		5,293 16 1	Amount standing to credit of above account - -		5,293 16 1
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS RETURN PASSAGE FUND—			INDIAN IMMIGRANTS RETURN PASSAGE FUND (under Ordinance XIII. of 1882)—		
(under Ordinance XIII. of 1882)			Amount standing to credit of above account - - -		10,856 5 4
Fixed deposits at interest -		10,856 5 4	CAPITAL SUM, proceeds of the sale of native lands, on which interest at 5 per cent. per annum is paid by the Crown to the native owners - - - -		2,734 13 4
Fund for the redemption of the debentures loan 150,000*l.* (under Ordinance No. XIII. of 1880)		337 3 11	LOAN—Floated under Ordinance No. XIII. of 1880 -	150,000 0 0	
Amount due to the Immigration Department as per statement -		7,397 11 10	Less principal of debentures redeemed -	10,000 0 0	
Advance from public account against Suva works advance (Ordinance No. XX. of 1882) -		11,437 17 3			140,000 0 0
Unpaid portion of 9,403*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, advance made from public account for Indian introduction, ex "Ganges," recoverable by annual payments from 1885-89 (under Ordinance No. XVI. of 1884) - - - - -		4,342 11 1	IMPERIAL ADVANCES - -	104,025 7 11	
Imperial pensions paid in the Colony and recoverable from Paymaster-General, London -		35 10 1	Do. Do.	11,364 6 7	
Credit balance with Crown agents, London, 31st December 1887 -		448 16 9			115,389 14 6
Special advance (Indian Immigrants Return-passage Fund), cheque in hand on the 31st December 1887 - - -		4,339 10 0	PUBLIC ACCOUNT—Cheques outstanding, 31st December 1887 -		13,452 19 1
		67,819 11 2	Special advance from Indian Immigrants Return - passage Fund - - - - -		4,339 10 0
Excess of liabilities -		279,148 7 11	Debit balance with Bank of New Zealand, 31st December 1887 -		31,173 18 1
		346,967 19 1			346,967 19 1

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V.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works undertaken, with the amounts expended thereon, during the year were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Roads, bridges, and culverts - -	367	2	8
Repairs to wharves - - -	59	8	10
Repairs and additions - -	563	6	4
Construction of lighthouse at Solo -	3,378	3	7
	4,368	1	5

Up to 31st December 1887 a total sum of 4,866*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* had been expended on the construction of the Solo lighthouse. The light was exhibited on 1st February 1888.

The following is a return of the lights and lighthouses within the Colony, viz.:—

LIGHTS.

At Suva—Viti Levu.

Name.	Colour and Character.	Height above H.W.	Visible.	—
		Feet.	Miles.	
Upper leading light -	White, fixed catoptric	320	15	Wooden building, white, truncated cone. Acts as beacon by day. Obscured eastward of S.E. by land.
Lower leading light -	Red, fixed catoptric -	125	8-9	Wooden building, white, pyramidal. Acts as beacon by day. Light cut off approximately eastward of S.E. ½ E. and westward of S.S.W. ½ W. Distance apart of lights 1,300 yards from chart. An old lighthouse is left standing on beach in same line, viz., N. (mag.).
Lightship - -	Two, white fixed -	40-30	4	Vessel, 44 tons, painted red, moored on North of extreme of eastern reef forming passage into harbour, and turning point.
Wharf - - -	Green, fixed - -	—	—	Shows white towards the town. Visible from entrance to passage.

At Nasilai—Viti Levu.

Lat. 18·8 S. Long. 178·42 E.	Fourth order, dioptric double flashing. White at 10″ and 20″.	50	12	Light obscured from N.E. by N. round north to S.W. ¼ W. Wooden building on piles, painted white and red.

Levuka—Ovalau.

Name.	Colour and Character.	Height above H.W.	Visible.	—
		Feet.	Miles.	
Upper leading light -	White, fixed catoptric	240	16	Building of corrugated iron, pyramidal, 24 ft. high, white.
Lower leading light -	Red, fixed catoptric -	193	5	Similar building, 28 ft. high. Line of bearing E. ¼ N.; distance apart 73 yards. Lights show from S.E. by S. to N. by E. (eastward).
Turning light - -	Green, fixed - -	25	3½	Light shows from N. ¼ W. to N. by E. ¼ E., and indicates when a vessel is inside the reefs forming entrance, and may haul up clear of the middle patch to an anchorage.
Wharf - - -	Green, fixed - -	15	2	Shows from S. by E. ¼ E. to N.N.E. ¼ E.

At Solo Rock—Great Astrolabe Reef, Kadavu.

Lat. 18°38'14 S. Long. 178°32'15 E.	Third order dioptric revolving. White; flash at 30".	95	16	Circular iron tower painted in red and white bands horizontally.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances and Regulations were enacted during the year 1887, viz.:—

Ordinances,

No. 1.—Respecting wrecks and salvage.

No. 2.—To appropriate a sum not exceeding 6,586*l.* 10*s.* to the service of the month ending 31st March 1887.

No. 3.—To appropriate a sum not exceeding 73,672*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* to the service of the year ending 31st December 1887.

No. 4.—To amend Ordinance No. XXI. of 1875, intituled "An "Ordinance to regulate the storage of gunpowder."

No. 5.—To amend the "Harbour Ordinance, 1880."

No. 6.—To repeal Ordinance No. XIV. of 1886 (The Indian Immigration Ordinance, 1886) and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

No. 7.—To amend "The Levuka Court Ordinance, 1883."

No. 8.—To provide for and regulate the binding of apprentices in this Colony.

No. 9.—To amend "The Summary Conviction Offences Ordinance, 1876."

No. 10.—To authorise the expenditure of 6,577*l.* 5*s.* for the service of the year ending 31st December 1886 in excess of the amount already sanctioned by Ordinance.

No. 11.—To impose an export duty on bêche-de-mer.

No. 12.—To amend "The Quarantine Ordinance, 1880."

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No. 13.—To amend "The Prisons Ordinance, 1884."

No. 14.—To provide Indian interpreters for Courts of Justice.

No. 15.—To prohibit the use of intoxicating liquors by half-castes.

No. 16.—To regulate trading on Sunday.

No. 17.—To amend "The Indian Immigration Ordinance, "1878."

No. 18.—To amend an Ordinance intituled "An Ordinance to "provide for and regulate the binding of Apprentices in this "Colony."

No. 19.—To amend "The Pound Ordinance, 1887."

No. 20.—To provide for confining disaffected or dangerous natives to particular localities in Fiji.

No. 21.—To amend "The Wreck and Salvage Ordinance, "1887."

No. 22.—To appropriate a sum not exceeding 61,083*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* to the service of the year ending 31st December 1888.

Native Regulations.

No. 1.—With regard to women absenting themselves from their homes.

No. 2.—To amend Regulation No. 2 of 1877 concerning evasions of maternity.

No. 3.—To amend Regulation No. 3 of 1877 regarding obedience to Chiefs.

No. 4.—To put a stop to the practice of obtaining confessions under compulsion.

No. 5.—In regard to *Luveniwai*, *Kalourere*, and other similar practices.

Regulations of the Rotumah Regulation Board.

No. 2 of 1885.—Concerning attendance of children at school and remuneration of school teachers.

No. 3 of 1885.—Regarding the planting and keeping in order of cocoanuts.

No. 1 of 1887.—Regarding roads.

No. 3 of 1887.—Regarding registration of births and deaths.

No. 5 of 1887.—Regarding adultery.

No. 6 of 1887.—Concerning destruction of trees near the beach.

No. 7 of 1887.—Prohibiting children from using firearms.

No. 8 of 1887.—For the preservation of useful grasses outside the "Great Wall" of Rotumah.

VII.—Councils.

(1.) *Executive Council.*

The changes during the year consisted in the appointment of Mr. H. G. C. Emberson, Acting Receiver General, and Mr. Francis Pratt Winter, Acting Attorney General, to seats in the

Council in consequence of the absence from the Colony of the Colonial Secretary and the Chief Justice, whose offices were temporarily held by the Receiver General and the Attorney General respectively.

(2.) *Legislative Council.*

The same alterations took place here.

The changes in the unofficial membership consisted of the appointment of Mr. James M. Borron to act during the absence from the Colony of the Honourable James Murray, and the appointment of Mr. Alexander M. T. Duncan to act as a member of Council in room of Mr. James E. Mason, deceased.

VIII.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Governor Sir Charles Bullen Hugh Mitchell, K.C.M.G., assumed the administration of the Government on 2nd January 1887 and continued in office till 20th December 1887, when he left the Colony. Sir John Bates Thurston, K.C.M.G., was appointed Governor of the Colony on 9th December 1887, but did not arrive in the Colony till 9th February 1888.

The Government was in the meantime administered by the Honourable Wm. McGregor, M.D., &c., C.M.G.

Mr. H. G. C. Emberson, Registrar General, returned from leave of absence on 15th March 1887, and Mr. Henry Anson, Agent General of Immigration, on 17th March.

The Chief Justice, Mr. Fielding Clarke, was absent on leave from 13th May 1887; and the Colonial Secretary, Sir John Bates Thurston, K.C.M.G., was ordered to Washington in connexion with matters relating to the Western Pacific on 10th June 1887.

Those vacancies necessitated the following temporary changes:—

Mr. H. S. Berkeley, Attorney General, to be Acting Chief Justice.

Mr. Francis Pratt Winter to be Acting Attorney General.

Dr. McGregor, Receiver General, to be Acting Colonial Secretary.

Mr. H. G. C. Emberson, Registrar General, to be Acting Receiver General.

Mr. John Berry, Commissioner of Lands, to be Acting Registrar General, which office he resigned on 20th September, whereupon the acting appointment was conferred upon Mr. Mark Dods, Clerk of Lands, &c.

Leave of absence was not granted to any other officer during the year, owing to the exigencies of the service.

Mr. George Ruthven Le Hunte, who during 11 years service in the Colony had filled the offices of Stipendiary Magistrate, Resident Commissioner Colo West, Commandant Armed Native Constabulary, Assistant Colonial Secretary, Acting Attorney General, Acting Receiver General, &c., left the Colony on 14th April 1887 to assume the position of President of the Island of Dominica.

The following offices were abolished during the year, viz.:—

1. Overseer, printing office.
2. Bookbinder, ditto.
3. Assistant bondkeeper, H.M. Customs.
4. Clerk and bondkeeper, H.M. Customs, Levuka.
5. President, Marine Board.
6. Secretary, Marine Board.
7. Travelling sub-agent of immigration.
8. Inspector of immigrants.
9. Clerk and Government Agent, Immigration Department.
10. Staff surveyor.
11. Foreman of works.
12. Clerk, Post Office.
13. Hospital visitor, Lau.
14. Clerk to Registrar General.
15. Inspector of police.
16. Assistant gaoler, Suva.
17. Warder, Suva gaol.
18. Assistant Government storekeeper.
19. Stipendiary magistrate.
20. Stipendiary magistrate.
21. Matron and warder, Levuka Hospital.
22. Dispenser, Levuka Hospital.
23. Dispenser, Suva Hospital.
24. Surveyor.
25. Assistant surveyor.

26–28. Three inspectors of native tax plantations.

The following offices were amalgamated:—

Stipendiary magistrate, Lomai Viti, and postmaster, Levuka.
Stipendiary magistrate, Navua and Kadavu, and inspector of native taxes, Navua and Kadavu.

The following officers retired from the service (in addition to members of his Excellency's staff):—

1. Two compositors, printing office (places taken by Burgher compositors from Ceylon).
2. Two cadets.
3. Sub-collector of customs, Levuka. (On compensation. Appointment filled by postmaster, Levuka.)
4. Harbour master, Suva. (On compensation. Appointment filled by transfer of harbour master, Levuka.)
5. Accountant immigration department. (Resigned.)
6. Two medical officers. (Resigned. Appointments not yet filled up.)
7. Two police constables. (Resigned. New appointments made.)
8. Gaoler, Suva. (Resigned. Inspector of police appointed.)
9. Matron and warder, Suva Hospital. (Resigned. Retiring stipendary magistrate appointed.)
10. Qaramvalu, Roko Tui Kadavu. (On pension.)

Thirty-one officers gave security for the due discharge of their duties, the bonds given being duly scrutinised by the committee appointed for the purpose.

IX.—PENSIONS.

Adi Arieta Kuila, to whom a pension of 100*l.* per annum was paid, died on 27th January 1887.

Pensions were awarded during the year to—

Ratu Ilaitia Toroca, native stipendiary magistrate, 10*l.*
Ratu Semi, native stipendiary magistrate, 6*l.*

X.—POPULATION.

An enumeration made during the year showed that the European population was 2,105.

The Acting Registrar General estimates the population of the Colony to be as follows:—

Class.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Europeans - - -	1,324	781	2,105
Half-castes - - -	420	418	838
Indians - - - -	3,348	2,737	6,085
Chinese - - - -	25	3	28
Polynesians - - -	2,226	128	3,354
Other Melanesians - -	114	77	191
Rotumans - - -	1,086	1,217	2,303
Fijians - - - -	57,601	53,153	110,754
Total - -	66,144	58,514	124,658

The vital statistics of the native population for the past year as compared with the average statistics for the period since 1881 are as follows:—

	Birth-rate per Mille.	Death-rate per Mille.	Increase.
Year 1887 - - -	40·06	36·03	4·03
Average for $6\frac{3}{4}$ years - -	38·30	42·91	Decrease. 4·61

The death-rate is still high, but a considerable improvement is indicated, owing in some measure to the comparative absence of epidemic diseases during the year.

XI.—IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

During the year 1887 the immigration to, and emigration from, the Colony were as follows:—

	Immigrants.	Emigrants.
Polynesian labourers - -	276	898
Indian labourers - - -	—	91
Europeans - - - -	513	645
Total - - -	789	1,634

XII.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

The missions at work in the group are the Wesleyan Methodist and the Roman Catholic.

The statistics regarding the position of each of those are as follows:—

Wesleyan Mission.

Churches - -	922
Other preaching places - -	365
European missionaries - - -	10
Native ministers - -	61
Catechists - - - -	45
Teachers - - - -	1,012
Local preachers - -	1,972
Class leaders - - - -	3,344
Church members, English and native -	27,169
On trial for membership - -	4,424
Catechumens - - - -	2,650
Attendants at public worship - -	102,891

Roman Catholic Mission.

Churches - - - -	17
Chapels - - - -	70
European missionaries - - -	13
Adherents - - - -	9,830
Training institutions - - -	3
Native teachers - - -	8
European sisters - - -	2

XIII.—EDUCATION.

There are two common (English) schools within the Colony, one in Levuka and one in Suva, with a gross average attendance of 185.

There is also an industrial or technical school at Yanawai, Savu Savu, for the instruction of native youths in the ordinary branches of education and in agricultural, pastoral, and industrial pursuits, particularly carpentering and boat building. There were in residence at 31st December 72 youths selected from the various provinces of the Colony. The cost of the institution, which is under the exclusive control of the Government, was for the year 753*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*

The education of natives is otherwise entirely in the hands of the missionary bodies. The statistics given are as follows:—

Native Schools conducted by the Wesleyan Mission.

Day schools - - - - - -	1,869
Sabbath schools - - - - -	1,488
Day school teachers - - - -	2,526
Sabbath school teachers - - - -	2,633
Day scholars - - - - - -	41,724
Sabbath scholars - - - - -	42,520

Native Schools conducted by the Roman Catholic Mission.

At Rotumah.—Day schools - - -	2
Scholars - - - -	193
At Suva, Fiji.—Day school - - -	1
Scholars (New Hebrides natives) - - -	16

There are other Roman Catholic schools throughout the Colony but no information has been obtained regarding them.

XIV.—PUBLICATIONS.

The following is a list of the newspapers published in the Colony, with their reputed circulation, viz.:—

"Fiji Times" (issued twice a week at Suva)	700
"Fiji Observer" (do.)	360
"Polynesian Gazette" (issued once a week at Levuka) - - - - - - -	130
"Namata" (native newspaper published by the Colonial Government occasionally) -	300
"Fiji Royal Gazette" (published about 70 times a year) - - - - - -	175

XV.—CURRENCY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Imperial.

XVI.—BANKS.

Bank of New Zealand, two branches.
Union Bank of Australia (Limited), one branch.

XV.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

The following table shows the total trade of the Colony for each of the past four years, viz.:—

Total Trade of the Colony. Years 1884–87.

Year.	Imports.			Exports.			Total Trade.
	For use in the Colony.	Imported for Exportation.	Total.	Produce of the Colony.	Imported Produce Exported.	Total.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1884 - - -	434,522 2 6	9,697 13 8	444,219 16 2	335,646 4 2	9,697 13 8	345,343 17 10	789,563 14 0
1885 - - -	294,584 18 1	6,445 15 4	301,030 13 5	320,304 5 2	6,445 15 4	326,750 0 6	627,780 13 11
1886 - - -	208,955 5 7	21,673 13 2	230,628 18 9	261,822 14 0	21,673 13 2	283,496 7 2	514,125 5 11
1887 - - -	177,587 6 0	10,484 0 6	188,071 6 6	270,611 9 3	10,468 17 6	281,080 6 9	469,151 13 3
Total - -	1,115,649 12 2	48,301 2 8	1,163,950 14 10	1,188,384 12 7	48,285 19 8	1,236,670 12 3	2,400,621 7 1
Average for the above 4 years -	278,912 8 0	12,075 5 8	290,987 13 8	297,096 3 2	12,071 9 11	309,167 13 1	600,155 6 9
Proportion which each item bears to total trade -	46·47 per cent.	2·01 per cent.	48·48 per cent.	49·50 per cent.	2·01 per cent.	51·51 per cent.	—
Average for 12 years ending 31st December 1886. - -	231,574 12 0	27,878 17 5	259,453 9 5	188,500 19 4	28,357 14 6	216,858 13 10	476,312 3 3
Proportion during that period -	48·62 per cent.	5·85 per cent.	54·47 per cent.	39·58 per cent.	5·95 per cent.	45·53 per cent.	—

The trade of the Colony among the different countries is shown in the following statements:—

TOTAL TRADE OF THE COLONY WITH DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

(1.) *Return showing the Total Value of Imports into Fiji from the different Countries for the Year ending 31st December 1887.*

Country.	Dutiable.	Free.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Futuna - - -	37 14 1	902 7 0	940 1 1
Germany - - -	1,119 17 9	58 15 2	1,178 12 11
Line Islands - -	137 1 5	17 9 0	154 10 5
New Caledonia - -	102 13 11	119 16 6	222 10 5
New Hebrides - -	330 18 7	59 18 9	390 17 4
New South Wales -	70,358 17 10	22,376 15 6	92,735 13 4
New Zealand - -	22,812 4 5	12,042 5 0	34,854 9 5
Samoa - - -	49 16 3	8,748 15 0	8,798 11 3
Tonga - - -	35 19 0	1,024 12 6	1,060 11 6
United Kingdom - -	14,038 6 8	6,964 13 8	21,003 0 4
United States - -	773 12 11	—	773 12 11
Victoria - - -	16,168 1 11	9,785 18 8	25,954 0 7
Wallis Island - -	3 3 0	1 12 0	4 15 0
Totals - -	125,968 7 9	62,102 18 9	188,071 6 6

(2.) *Return showing the Value of Exports to the several Countries for the Year ending 31st December 1887.*

Country.	Value.
	£ s. d.
Germany - - - - - -	20 0 0
Line Islands - - - - -	52 15 0
New Caledonia - - - - -	82 2 10
New Hebrides - - - - - -	132 3 9
New South Wales - - - - -	107,516 14 7
New Zealand - - - - - -	85,706 7 6
Portugal - - - - - -	7,752 0 0
Samoa - - - - - -	122 14 0
Solomon Islands - - - - -	44 6 9
Tonga - - - - - -	981 9 9
United Kingdom - - - - -	5,008 13 0
Victoria - - - - - -	70,322 9 7
Wallis Island - - - - - -	3,338 10 0
Total - - - -	281,080 6 9

(3.) *Return showing the Total Trade of the Colony of Fiji with the undermentioned Countries for the year ending 31st December 1887.*

Country.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New South Wales - - -	92,735 13 4	107,516 14 7	200,252 7 11
New Zealand - - - -	34,854 9 5	85,706 7 6	120,560 16 11
Tonga - - - - -	1,060 11 6	981 9 9	2,042 1 3
United Kingdom - - -	21,003 0 4	5,008 13 0	26,011 13 4
United States - - -	773 12 11	—	773 12 11
Victoria - - -	25,954 0 7	70,322 9 7	96,276 10 2
Totals - - -	176,381 8 1	269,535 14 5	445,917 2 6

The total trade of the Colony has in each of the past two years been divided among the countries dealt with in the following proportions, viz. :—

Country.	1886. Per-centage of Total Trade.	1887. Per-centage of Total Trade.
New South Wales - - -	54·20	42·68
New Zealand - - - -	16·89	25·69
Victoria - - - - -	11·71	20·52
Portugal - - - -	7·16	1·65
United Kingdom - -	3·45	5·54
Tonga - - -	3 09	·43
Samoa - - - -	1·79	1·90
Other countries - - - -	1·65	1·56

The division of the trade of the Colony between British Possessions and foreign countries was during the past four years as follows :—

Total Value of Imports from British Possessions, Polynesian Islands, and other Countries.

—	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
From British Possessions -	428,275 10 4	289,737 14 7	206,182 18 6	174,547 3 8
From Polynesian Islands -	8,263 11 9	7,290 1 3	22,663 15 1	10,288 17 7
From other Countries -	7,680 14 1	4,002 17 7	1,782 5 2	3,235 5 3
Total - -	444,219 16 2	301,030 13 5	230,628 18 9	188,071 6 6

Value of Total Exports to British Possessions and to other Countries respectively.

—	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Exported to British Possessions - - - -	313,488 12 0	288,905 10 6	238,921 9 8	268,554 4 8
Exported to other Countries	31,855 5 10	37,844 10 0	44,574 17 6	12,526 2 1
Total - -	345,343 17 10	326,750 0 6	283,496 7 2	281,080 6 9

The accounts of imports and exports are exclusive of specie and bullion.

Imports and exports have respectively formed the following proportion of the total trade of the years stated, viz. :—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
1884 - - - -	56·26	43·73
1885 - - - -	47·95	52·04
1886 - - - -	44·85	55·14
1887 - - - -	40·08	59·91

The value of the principal articles of import from 1884 to 1887 inclusive is tabulated in the return hereunder. These figures are exclusive of produce imported for exportation :—

Nature of Import.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£	£	£	£
1. Bacon and hams - -	2,504	2,023	1,663	1,363
2. Bags and sugar mats* - -	3,737	2,272	3,911	4,749
3. Beer - - - -	7,672	5,866	5,062	3,891
4. Boots and shoes - -	4,778	3,282	4,368	4,010
5. Breadstuffs and biscuits* -	14,562	12,240	14,868	10,879
6. Butter - - -	3,112	3,305	2,582	2,281
7. Cordage - - -	3,070	1,198	1,326	980
8. Cigars - - -	1,122	633	1,021	582
9. Coals* - - -	6,453	11,644	9,173	9,657
10. Doors and sashes - -	743	479	224	188
11. Drapery - - -	56,036	45,879	40,228	40,574
12. Drugs - - - -	5,286	3,840	2,530	2,088
13. Fish - - - -	3,784	3,568	2,491	1,758
14. Fruits, bottled and dried -	1,390	970	805	634
15. Galvanised iron and goods -	11,801	2,927	2,741	1,539
16. Glassware and crockery -	3,092	2,403	2,039	1,855
17. Hardware - - -	59,776	32,757	21,535	16,519
18. Iron, bar, rod - - -	1,146	417	491	499
19. Iron, rails and pipes* - -	8,216	10,591	2,248	229
20. Jams and jellies - -	1,277	861	696	519
21. Jewellery - - -	2,415	1,572	1,019	971
22. Live stock* - - -	9,873	5,346	4,537	3,591

* Duty free.

Nature of Import.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£	£	£	£
23. Machinery* - - -	103,176	53,566	7,732	9,613
24. Meats* - - -	19,298	13,352	11,199	6,733
25. Musical instruments - -	1,723	631	771	498
26. Oils - - - -	5,001	5,572	5,150	5,468
27. Pickles and oilstores - -	5,496	3,402	2,661	2,486
28. Paints - - - -	2,284	1,077	1,030	1,174
29. Produce - - -	3,823	4,474	5,174	5,877
30. Rice - - - -	10,967	11,307	9,972	7,951
31. Ship chandlery - -	4,713	1,870	1,420	1,849
32. Soap - - - -	2,466	2,344	1,765	1,715
33. Spirits - - -	6,397	3,617	3,691	3,260
34. Stationery - - -	3,775	4,485	2,640	2,427
35. Sugar - - - -	186	766	158	26
36. Tea - - - -	2,358	1,595	1,715	1,149
37. Timber - - -	15,231	8,314	6,807	3,032
38. Tobacco - - -	2,483	1,578	1,845	904
39. Vegetables and green fruits -	3,313	2,969	2,514	1,856
40. Wines - - - -	3,175	2,221	1,468	987
41. Woodenware and furniture -	6,697	4,564	3,140	2,257
42. Other imports - - -	29,812	19,233	34,218	19,453
Total - - -	434,522	294,585	208,955	177,587

* Duty free.

The principal falling off is on the items of machinery, timber, galvanised iron and manufactures, iron rails and pipes, hardware, meats, breadstuffs, rice, and drapery. The value of these articles imported during the years comprised in the foregoing list were as follows:—

Article.	1887.	1886.	1885.	1884.
	£	£	£	£
Machinery - - - -	9,613	7,732	53,566	103,176
Timber - - - - -	3,032	6,807	8,314	15,231
Galvanised iron and manufactures -	1,539	2,741	2,927	11,801
Iron rails and pipes - - -	229	2,248	10,591	8,216
Hardware - - - -	16,519	21,535	32,757	59,776
Meats - - - - -	6,733	11,199	13,352	19,298
Breadstuffs - - - -	10,879	14,868	12,240	14,562
Rice - - - - -	7,951	9,972	11,307	10,967
Drapery - - - -	40,574	40,228	45,879	56,036
Total - - -	97,069	117,330	190,933	299,063
Decrease 1887 - - - -	—	20,261	93,864	201,994
„ 1886 - - - -	—	—	73,603	181,773
„ 1885 - - - -	—	—		108,130

FIJI.

The decrease as compared with the year 1884 on the importation of machinery, timber, galvanised iron, &c., and iron rails and pipes is owing to the fact that the erection of the large sugar mills was completed in that year.

The decrease in the value of hardware and drapery imported is doubtless to some extent owing to the fact that prices have fallen, but arises mainly from the diminution in the number of Polynesian labourers now employed in the country and receiving wages in trade, and from the decrease of the European population.

The falling off in the importation of meats, rice, and breadstuffs is partly to be ascribed to the same cause, and partly to the fact that Indian immigrants, having now become more settled in the country, grow a greater proportion of their own food supplies. It will also be observed that there has been an increased importation of articles classed as "Produce," which includes dhol and other Indian foodstuffs.

It will further be seen that on all articles that may be regarded as of more or less exclusively European consumption there has been a marked decrease, especially in comparing the early with the later years of the return.

Thus bacon, beer, spirits, wines, pickles, and oil stores have fallen off greatly.

The importation of tea, sugar, tobacco, and cigars has also fallen off, but the decrease in these cases is principally owing to the greater consumption of Colonial manufactures.

Customs Duties.

The average rate of Customs duties on imports (*i.e.*, the proportion which the Customs duties collected bears to the total value of imports) has during each of the past four years been as follows;—

	Per cent.
1884	9·2
1885	10·49
1886	12·72
1887	13·05

The Customs tariff has been but slightly altered during the period, but in the earlier years the importation of duty-free goods (machinery, meats, breadstuffs, &c.) were greater than in the later years, a fact which accounts for the apparent increase in the average rate of duties.

Exports.

The decrease of exports which might be assumed from a comparison of the total values of the yearly exportations is only apparent, and is owing to the higher rates at which exports were valued during the years 1884 and 1885.

The value at which the important articles of export from the Colony have been estimated for 1886 and 1887, 1885 and 1884, the years comprised in the returns annexed, is as follows :—

Article.		1886 and 1887.	1885.	1884.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Beche-de-mer	a ton	50 0 0	60 0 0	60 0 0
Cocoanuts	a 100	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 4 0
Coffee	a lb.	0 0 6	0 0 6	0 0 6
Copra	a ton	9 10 0	12 6 0	12 6 0
Cotton—				
Sea Island	a ton	121 6 8	121 6 8	121 6 8
Kidney	a ton	46 13 4	46 13 4	46 13 4
Fibre	a bale	10 0 0	11 0 0	11 0 0
Fruit, green	a bunch	0 1 6	0 1 6	0 1 6
	a case	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0
Maize	a bushel	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 4 0
Molasses	a gallon	0 0 1½	0 0 3¾	0 0 3¾
Peanuts	a ton	18 13 4	18 13 4	18 13 4
Pearl shell	a ton	40 0 0	60 0 0	60 0 0
Sugar	a ton	16 0 0	20 0 0	25 0 0

The total value of the 12 principal items of export during 1884 was 339,742*l.* out of a total export of 345,344*l.*, equal to 98·4 per cent. of the whole; but if these items had been valued at the rates which have been taken for the exports of 1886 and 1887, the total value would have been reduced by 29 per cent.

Similarly in respect of the year 1885, in which the principal items of export amounted to 320,534*l.*, equal to 98·1 per cent. of a total export of 326,750*l.*, if those items had been valued at the rates of the two later years the total value would have been reduced by 18 per cent. Thus, the total exports of the past four years, if valued at the same rates throughout, would have amounted to—

1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
£ 245,194	£ 267,935	£ 283,496	£ 281,080
As compared with— 345,343	326,750	The same.	The same.

the values given in the Customs returns.

FIJI.

The principal exports during the past four years were:—

Article.		1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Sugar	Tons	8,729	10,586	11,716	12,831
	Value, £	218,224	211,729	187,456	205,294
Copra (including cocoanuts)	Tons	5,643	5,235	5,217	1,957
	Value, £	69,642	64,300	49,564	12,356
Fruit dried and preserved	Cases	—	86	544	546
Bananas	Bunches	228,734	277,973	261,741	359,294
and pineapples	Cases	4,259	5,095	4,988	6,070
	Value, £	19,710	23,991	23,059	31,026
Cotton	Tons	150	44	52	24
	Value, £	15,309	5,312	6,125	2,894
Beche-de-mer	Tons	12 3/5	20 7/20	70 1/10	96 3/10
	Value, £	758	1,222	3,505	4,812
Maize	Bushels	12,720	15,660	16,228	15,288
	Value, £	2,544	3,132	2,434	2,293
Molasses	Gallons	459,905	151,264	120,180	36,790
	Value, £	7,186	2,363	751	230
Peanuts	Tons	149	137	160	331
	Value, £	2,784	2,552	3,003	6,178
Coir fibre	Tons	94	66	45	44
	Value, £	1,031	728	455	347
Coffee	Lbs.	86,065	85,239	7,426	10,799
	Value, £	2,152	2,131	186	270
Spirits, Colonial distilled	Gallons	1,083	1,082	338 3/10	4,285
	Value, £	81	189	59	759
Tea	Lbs.	236	968	220	20,950
	Value, £	23	97	22	2,095

The production of sugar increased during each year notwithstanding the unfavourable condition of the market.

Copra forms the principal "import for exportation." During the years of which statistics are given in the table the following were the quantities imported for exportation:—

	Tons.
1884	665
1885	522
1886	1,722
1887	1,084

In 1887 the export of Fijian copra was less than in any previous year. This was partly owing to the effects of the hurricanes of 1886, and partly to the difficulty in procuring shipping for the removal of the copra in store.

It is estimated that at the end of the year there were 1,600 tons of copra awaiting shipment. The value of copra exported was less by 32,241*l.* than in the year 1886.

The export of fruit still advances, the value of the export of 1887 being 8,000*l.* over that of the two previous years.

The production of cotton is on the decline. During the years under review the quantity of Fijian and imported cotton exported (cleaned) was as follows :—

Year	Fijian.	Imported.
	Tons.	Tons.
1884 - - - - -	125	25
1885 - - - - -	44	Nil.
1886 - - - - -	15	37
1887 - - - -	24	Nil.

The export of beche de mer has increased during the past two years, due to the fact that in the year 1885 the reefs were partly, and in the year 1886 wholly, thrown open to fishing.

The production of peanuts doubled in the past year.

The export of maize remains stationary, but large quantities are now consumed in the Colony.

The export of molasses has decreased, but it will be observed that the production of Colonial distilled spirit has made a fresh start during the past year.

The export of coir fibre decreases yearly. This article is at a disadvantage in the matter of carriage owing to its bulk, a disadvantage that could be overcome only by its local manufacture, which has not yet been attempted.

The export of coffee has decreased greatly in past years, although the year 1887 shows a slight advance upon its predecessor.

This is the first year in which the export of tea has attained to any dimensions. The local consumption is also considerable, the tea being considered of excellent quality.

SHIPPING.

The total number of merchant vessels, with their tonnage, entered at the ports of entry as arriving in the Colony is for the several years as under :—

Year.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1884 - - - - -	150	63,246
1885 - - - - -	124	54,056
1886 - - - - -	118	54,132
1887 - - - - -	119	46,902

FIJI.

A comparison of steam and sailing vessels gives the following results:—

Year.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1884 - -	50	40,457	100	22,789
1885 - -	49	33,805	75	20,251
1886 - -	60	34,781	58	19,351
1887 - -	66	33,231	53	13,671

The nationalities of these vessels are as follows:—

Year.	British.		American.		German.		Danish.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
- - - -	129	57,330	7	1,467	14	4,449	—	—
1885 - - - -	106	47,554	5	1,347	7	3,189	1	361
1886 - - - -	106	48,289	2	576	10	5,267	—	—
1887 - - - -	105	41,378	—	—	7	2,680	—	—

(*Continued.*)

Year.	Norwegian.		Tongan.		Samoan.		Bolivian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1884 - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1885 - - - -	2	1,099	1	48	1	17	1	441
1886 - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1887 - - - -	4	2,737	3	107	—	—	—	—

AGRICULTURE.

Of the 4,953,920 acres, comprising the total landed area of the Colony, 35,244¾ acres are under cultivation by Europeans, being an increase from the year 1886 of 2,339 acres.

The crops planted are as follows :—

	Acres.
Tea	305
Arrowroot	13 5/12
Bananas	1,174½
Cotton	305
Coffee	33
Cocoanuts	19,939½
Maize	403
Spices	21
Sugar cane	12,252½
Tobacco	12 1/12
Tapioca	28¾
Yams	165
Other produce	592
Total	35,244¾

MANUFACTORIES.

There were in the Colony at 31st December 1887, 12 sugar mills and two fruit-preserving establishments.

LANDS GRANTED.

The transactions in land are shown by the following return prepared by the Registrar General. Attention is directed to the explanations given in the footnotes thereto as to Crown grants and transfers and the consideration therefor ;—

STATEMENT showing the Number of Deeds registered in the Office of the Registrar of Titles during the period from 15th March, 1877* to 31st December 1887, with certain Particulars concerning the same.

Year.	Total No. of Deeds Registered.	(1) Crown Grants.			(2) Transfers.			Transmissions.	Certificates of Title.	Mortgages.		Released Mortgages.		Powers of Attorney.	Orders of Supreme Court.	Trusts.	Caveats.	Leases.	Surrenders of Leases.	(3) Miscellaneous.
		No.	Acreage.	Consideration.	No.	Acreage.	Consideration, Stamp Duty.			No.	Value.	No.	Value.							
1877	213	153	A. R. P. 48,765 2 11·15	£ —	17	A. R. P. 10,168 2 34·9	£ s. d. 3,689 12 0 / £ s. d. 22 13 6	--	10	7	£ s. d. 13,972 10 0	—	£ s. d. —	5	—	4	8	3	—	6
1878	270	98	39,476 1 17·95	400	51	19,218 1 21·45	24,370 5 9 / 136 9 0	9	47	26	30,502 0 0	—	—	8	3	2	9	15	—	2
1879	218	52	23,558 3 32·60	1,900	28	6,813 1 24·6	7,723 18 8 / 43 5 0	2	28	25	19,205 15 3	—	—	8	3	5	13	23	—	31
1880	446	52	27,562 1 03·10	3,714	64	28,400 3 11·53	24,063 4 9 / 164 2 6	3	63	46	32,475 15 8	31	13,464 16 0	12	4	6	16	12	6	131
1881	822	283	75,627 0 00·89	7,360	174	35,647 1 39 85	129,493 12 2 / 689 7 6	2	164	52	61,237 3 8	27	21,925 8 0	18	4	5	21	22	5	45
1882	776	247	65,745 2 09·50	6,783	111	44,390 0 32	102,890 4 11 / 540 15 6	2	115	68	136,967 15 0	49	57,963 13 11	18	11	2	55	49	—	49
1883	850	135	31,664 2 31·25	5,320	138	53,949 3 20·5	63,005 13 0 / 356 11 0	12	159	69	76,806 2 11	49	20,163 4 6	32	17	4	61	58	5	111
1884	776	97	38,325 1 20·4	391	105	28,015 1 03·4	49,609 8 5 / 265 0 0	12	115	65	57,991 13 0	41	24,793 4 9	22	16	2	76	92	19	114
1885	568	30	26,367 2 29·5	392	112	39,868 2 10·8	70,718 18 2 / 594 7 6	14	114	36	30,398 18 8	43	44,305 4 6	12	11	1	54	39	13	89
1886	429	41	14,042 1 5·6	95	83	39,368 1 19·85	65,138 10 8 / 349 0 0	11	91	18	10,900 10 0	42	33,728 9 0	7	6	3	35	24	7	61
1887	354	45	8,120 0 16·00	91	57	18,029 1 1·6	17,332 3 11 / 105 10 0	5	59	19	43,923 13 11	27	9,302 19 4	7	4	1	33	35	14	53

* The Real Property Ordinance came into operation on this date.

(1) The greater number of grants were issued for a nominal consideration to Europeans and others for lands acquired by them previous to annexation, and now confirmed after due investigation as to title.

(2) A great number of these transfers were for lands under contract of sale prior to annexation and now registered, the consideration is in these cases small and does not represent the present value of the land.

(3) Miscellaneous items include memos. of endorsement from Commissioner of Lands, and notices to withdraw, and withdrawals and partial withdrawals of caveats; also transfers of leases, of mortgages, &c.

CRIME.

The following table shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last four years :—

Comparative Table showing the Number of Offences, Apprehensions, Convictions, and Acquittals for the last Four Years.

——	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
The number of offences reported to the police	—	—	—	—
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates	4,053	6,997	11,629	8,044
The number of summary convictions :—				
1. For offences against the person -	304	293	312	501
2. For larceny - - - -	241	168	244	223
3. For offences against property other than larceny - - - -	69	63	174	73
4. For other offences - - -	2,188	4,733	8,578	5,424
The number of convictions in the superior courts :—				
1. For offences against the person -	8	15	57	18
2. For larceny - - - -	1	—	3	—
3. For offences against property other than larceny - - - -	1	3	12	11
4. For other offences - - -	6	—	—	—
The number of persons acquitted :—				
1. In the inferior courts - - -	1,100	1,616	2,155	1,759
2. In the superior courts - - -	18	9	24	17

PRISONS.

The following are the statistics for the year 1887 :—

——	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.
Number of persons committed in 1887 for debt - - -	—	—	—	—
For safe custody till trial or for want of security - -	97	—	2	99
For purposes of penal imprisonment - - - -	1,123	155	1	1,279
Total - - -	1,220	155	3	1,378

Number of those committed who have been previously convicted:—

——	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.
Once - - - -	176	34	—	210
Twice - - - -	80	23	1	104
Thrice or more - - -	359	44	—	403

Number of persons committed to penal imprisonment:—

——	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.	Total.
For five years or more - -	5	—	—	5
For one year and under five years -	50	—	—	50
For three months and under one year - - - -	114	4	—	118
For three months or less - -	954	151	1	1,106
Total - - -	1,123	155	1	1,279

The daily average number in prison throughout the year was:—

Men - - -	223·12
Women - - - -	21·00
Juveniles - - - -	0·25
Total - -	244·37

The number of admissions to hospital from prison during the year was 365.

The daily average on the sick list was 12·82, being 7·45 of men and 5·37 of women.

There were six deaths (including one execution) of prisoners during the year.

The total cost of the prisons of the Colony during the year was 2,608*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The public hospital at Levuka was closed in June 1887. There remains now only the public hospital at Suva.

The number of patients treated during the year and the number of deaths were as follows:—

Patients treated.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Fijians - - - - -	223	4
Melanesians - - - - -	134	22
Indians - - - - -	349	6
Europeans - - - -	14	3
Miscellaneous - - - -	9	1
Total - - - -	729	36

The per-centage of deaths was thus 4·93.

The following tables specify the diseases treated, together with the deaths occurring:—

FIJI, SUVA HOSPITAL.

Fijian Patients.

Ulcer, tubercular, simple varicose, ordinary scrofulous	- -	60	
Strumous lupus	- - -	15	
Boils	- - - -	1	
Abscess	- - - -	7	
Parotid abscess	- - -	1	
Laryngal ulcer	- - -	2	
Strumous pharyngitis	- -	3	
Fistula in ano	- -	1	
Epithelima	- - -	2	
Ulcer of rectum	- - -	1	
Conjunctivitis, simple	- -	3	
Keratitis, iritis, &c.	- -	4	
Cataract	- - - -	3	
Aural disease	- - -	2	
Tinea unbricata	- - -	1	
Scabies	- - - -	1	
Gonorrhœa	- - -	6	
Varicocele	- - -	1	
Hydrocele	- - -	5	
Metiorhœa	- - -	1	
Childbirth	- - -	1	
Mania	- - - -	1	
Fatty tumour	- - -	3	
Disease of ankle joint	- -	2	
Sprain	- - - -	2	
Fracture tibia and fibula	- -	1	
„ scapula	- - -	1	
Fracture of thumb	- -	1	
Leprosy	- - -	1	
Phthisis	- - - -	2	
Anæmia	- - - -	1	
Dysentery	- - -	28	
Bronchitis	- -	2	
Pleurisy	- - - -	3	
Anhosis of lung	- - -	2	
Hæmoptysis	- - -	3	
Pneumonia	- - -	1	
Locomotoratasy	- - -	1	
Chronic nephritridis	- -	1	
Rheumatism	- - -	4	
Lumbago	- - - -	2	
Influenza	- - - -	1	
Lumphargeitis	- - -	2	
Varicella	- - - -	2	
Typhomalarial fever	- -	1	
Fever, various	- - -	13	
Pleurodynia	- - -	1	
Synovitis	- - - -	4	
Diarrhœa	- - - -	4	
Constipation	- - -	3	
Elephantiasis scrote	- -	8	
Total	- -	223	

In all 223 admissions, of whom 4 died, viz.:—

Pneumonia	- - -	1	Typho malarial fever - - 1
Phthisis	- - -	1	Diarrhœa - - - 1

Death rate, 1·79 per cent.

FIJI.

Indian Patients.

Ulcer, simple	39	Frambœsia	4
Abscess	6	Andemia	11
Perineal abscess	1	Senile decay	1
Abrasion of cerioxuteri	3	Fever and debility	25
Fistula in ano	2	Diarrhœa and debility	10
Keratitis, iritis, &c.	3	Dysentery	46
Acne purulenta	1	Pneumonia	1
Leucorrhœa	8	Bronchitis	4
Gonorrhœa	117	Apoplexy	2
Phymosis	2	Papaplegia	1
Cystitis	3	Epilepsy	1
Stricture of urethra	4	Hysteria	1
Chancre, &c.	16	Convulsions	3
Orchitis	2	Splenitis	2
Constitutional syphilis	3	Morbus cordus	1
Periostities	1	Constipation	4
Synovitis	1	Wounds	6
Rheumatism	3		
Sprain	1	Total	349
Fracture of forearm	1		
Phthisis	4		

Of whom 6 died, viz.:—

Phthisis	1	Andemia	2
Dysentery	2	Diarrhœa	1

Death rate, 1·71 per centum.

Polynesian Immigrant Patients.

Ulcer, simple	8	Cerebro-spinal fever	2
„ phagedonic	2	Varicella	3
Strumous adeintis	3	Influenza	1
Abscess	2	Diarrhœa	10
Hip disease	1	Dysentery	18
Spinal caries	1	Fever	9
Psoiasis of sole	1	Icterus	2
Leprosy	1	Pleurisy	2
Osteo-sarcoma	1	Pneumonia	6
Excephaloid cancer	1	Hæmoptysis	1
Ophthalmia, &c.	7	Hemiplegia	1
Otitis	1	Mania	1
Orchitis	1	Cephalegia	1
Tonsillitis	1	Constipation	1
Scabies	1	Dyspepsia	1
Swollen legs	3	Acute enteritis	1
Venereal ulcerations	19		
Gonorrhœa simplex	7	Total admissions	134
General tuberculosis	3		
Phthisis	10		

In all 134 admissions, of whom 24 died, viz. :—

Venereal ulcerations	1	Pneumonia	1
Phagidonic ulcer	1	Hemiplegia	1
Iliac abscess	2	Cerebro-spinal fever	1
Phthisis	9	Diarrhœa	1
General tuberculosis	2	Dysentery	3
Fever	1	Acute enteritis	1

Death rate, 17·91 per centum.

European Patients, 1887.

Diffuse cellulitis of leg	1	Dysentery (acute)	3
Ulcer of foot	1	Diarrhœa	1
Abscess of thigh	1	Typho-malarial fever	1
Paraplegia	1	Febricula, &c.	1
Schrosis of spinal chord	1		
Delirium tremens	1	Total	14
Dysentery and cachexia	1		
Frambœsia and cachexia	1		

In all 14 admissions, of whom 3 died, viz.:—

Typho-malarial fever	1
Paraplegia	1
Dysentery and cachexia	1

Miscellaneous and Mixed Races.

Dysentery	4	Leprosy	1
Hæmoptysis	2	Cirrhosis of liver, &c.	3

In all nine admissions, of whom one died; but these related as a matter of fact to three individuals only, of whom one was admitted four times, and a second also four times, the remaining one once only.

Lunatic Asylum.

The number of patients in the asylum at the beginning of the year was		6
There have been admitted during the year		10
Discharged—		
Cured	1	
Relieved	3	
Not improved	1	
	—	5
Died		1
Remaining in asylum		10

The patients were of the following classes:—

	Males.	Females.
(1.) Maniacal and dangerous	5	2
(2.) Quiet chronic	5	—
(3.) Melancholy and suicidal	3	—
(4.) Idiotic, paralytic, epileptic	1	—

FIJI.

LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.

There is a mechanics' institute with a library in Suva, and another in Levuka. They are maintained by the subscriptions of members, and by revenue derived from the rent of the public halls attached to each.

METEOROLOGY.

The returns of the Government meteorological observer are as follows:—

Station.—Suva, Fiji.

$\lambda = 178° 26' 0''$ E. $\phi = 18° 8''$ S. $H = 10' 0''$.

Months.	Mean Pressure.	Air Temperature.							
		9 a.m.	Mean.	Means of		Absolute Min. and Max.			
				Min.	Max.	Min.	Date.	Max.	Date.
January - - -	29·818	—	80·6	70·6	84·5	68·2	12th	90·0	5th
February - - -	29·826	—	81·0	70·3	85·2	67·5	26th	88·0	14th, 16th, 26th
March - - - -	29·891	—	78·4	69·0	83·7	66·0	5th	88·0	2nd
April - - - -	29·923	—	78·0	71·5	82·0	68·0	25th, 15th, 16th	86·0	23rd–28th
May - - - -	29·970	—	78·0	72·0	83·0	68·0	15th, 17th, 18th	87·0	10th, 11th, 12th, 16th
June - - - -	30·010	—	77·0	72·0	83·0	67·0	7th, 8th	86·0	20th, 21st
July - - - -	30·073	—	75·0	68·0	79·0	64·0	6th, 22nd	85·0	20th
August - - -	30·050	—	72·0	67·0	77·0	62·0	9th, 29th	83·0	19th
September - - -	30·044	—	77·0	70·0	81·0	66·0	22nd	86·0	29th
October - - -	30·018	—	78·0	71·0	83·0	66·0	3rd, 4th, 5th, 13th	87·0	9th, 25th
November - - -	29·944	—	80·0	72·0	83·0	66·0	1st, 3rd	90·0	18th, 19th
December - - -	29·949	—	80·0	74·0	83·0	70·0	6th, 11th	87·0	14th, 15th, 30th
Year - - -	29·959	—	78·0	70·6	82·2	66·5	—	87·0	—

STATION.—SUVA, FIJI.

$ht = 4'\ 0''$. $hr = 14'\ 0''$.

Months.	Amount of Cloud.		Rainfall.			Weather. No. of Days of							Wind. No. of Observations of								
	9 a.m.	Mean.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Rain.	Snow.	Hail.	Thunder-Storms.	Clear Sky.	Over-cast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.
January -	—	4	8·56	1·84	7th	28	—	—	8	5	5	—	8	10	2	6	0	4	1	0	0
February -	—	4	4·93	1·30	15th	27	—	—	5	3	4	—	9	12	1	3	0	0	1	2	3
March - -	—	5	18·94	2·62	28th	31	—	—	14	5	8	—	9	10	0	9	0	1	1	1	2
April - -	—	3	12·40	2·51	3rd	29	—	—	4	0	8	—	4	18	3	1	0	3	0	1	0
May -	—	5	8·90	2·17	6th	24	—	—	10	9	7	—	7	5	0	8	3	2	2	4	0
June - -	—	4	4·70	0·66	28th	17	—	—	5	6	2	—	9	7	2	3	2	1	0	6	0
July - -	—	4	3·47	2·16	19th	15	—	—	1	4	3	—	2	4	5	11	1	2	0	6	2
August - -	—	6	3·19	0·87	23rd	18	—	—	0	2	7	—	1	1	4	21	3	1	0	0	0
September -	—	5	2·86	0·51	25th	20	—	—	0	3	7	—	6	8	3	11	2	0	0	0	0
October -	—	4	8·43	1·94	20th	20	—	—	3	2	3	—	2	0	3	21	3	0	1	1	0
November -	—	5	3·71	0·96	21st	18	—	—	5	4	8	—	4	6	6	8	3	1	0	2	0
December -	—	6	15·90	3·94	14th	24	—	—	0	2	7	—	1	2	6	18	4	0	0	0	0
Year, average per month -	—	4·7	7·98	3·94	14th/12th	22·5	—	—	4·6	3·7	5·8	—	5·1	7·0	3·0	10·0	1·7	1·2	0·5	2·0	0·5

Fiji, Suva, 29th August 1888.

J. STEWART,
For the Colonial Secretary.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 41.

GAMBIA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

(*In continuation of* [C.—5249] *February* 1888.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1888.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and
32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK, 6, North Bridge, Edinburgh; or
HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1888.

—5249.—34.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	"	2
3	Gambia	"	1
4	Victoria	"	2½
5	New Zealand	"	5
6	Tobago	1887	1
7	Gibraltar	"	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland	1887	1
10	Natal	"	1
11	Straits Settlements	"	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turk's Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland	1886	½
15	Grenada	1887	1½
16	Trinidad	"	1½
17	Bermuda	"	1
18	St. Helena	"	½
19	Barbados	"	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 1887)	"	1
21	Bahamas	"	½
22	Labuan	"	½
23	Malta	"	1½
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	"	3
25	St. Vincent	"	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	"	1
27	Leeward Islands	"	3½
28	British Guiana	"	2
29	Western Australia	"	½
30	Falkland Islands	"	1
31	Basutoland	"	1½
32	St. Lucia	"	1½
33	Hong Kong	"	1½
34	Fiji	"	3
35	British Honduras	"	1
36	Mauritius, Seychelles and Rodrigues	"	2
37	Ceylon	"	1½
38	British New Guinea	"	6½
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885.	3
40	Lagos (Western District)	1887	1½

No. 41.

GAMBIA.

Governor HAY to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
November 10, 1888.

(Signed) J S. HAY,
Administrator in Chief.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1887.

Government House, Bathurst,
November 2, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith (in triplicate) the Gambia Blue Book for 1887, and beg to offer the following remarks on the returns furnished from the various departments in the Settlement.

Taxes, &c.

The under-mentioned additions were made to the Gambia Customs Tariff under authority of Ordinance No. 12 of 1st December 1887. With these exceptions the tariff is similar to that of last year, and is regulated by Ordinance No. 10 of 16th November 1883:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Oils (other than kerosine) and turps, per gallon - - -	0	0	6
Lard per gallon, or 9 lbs. weight taken as equivalent thereof - -	0	0	6
Rice per cwt. of 112 lbs. - -	0	0	6
Five per cent. *ad valorem* duty on all articles not subject to a specific duty.			
Export duty on ground nuts, per ton -	0	6	8

o 56806. Wt. 18427.

GAMBIA.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The estimated revenue amounted to 12,228*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, and that actually collected to 13,452*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, inclusive of arrears. There were increases under the following heads, viz. :—

Head of Estimate.	Amount Estimated.	Amount Collected.	Increase.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Customs	8,475 0 0	9,099 17 2	624 17 2
Rents, exclusive of land	530 15 11	811 19 1	281 3 2
Land revenue	424 13 10	470 2 9	45 8 11
Postal revenue	300 2 6	519 2 8	219 0 2
Miscellaneous receipts	150 0 0	1,035 9 11	885 9 11
Special receipts	—	15 13 11	15 13 11
Total	9,880 12 3	11,952 5 6	2,071 13 3

making a total of 2,071*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*

On the other hand, there were decreases to the amount of 847*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* under the heads enumerated in the following table :—

Head of Estimate.	Amount Estimated.	Amount Collected.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Licenses	962 13 4	596 0 0	366 13 4
Fines, forfeitures, and fees, &c.	326 15 0	181 0 5	145 14 7
Reimbursements in aid	185 13 1	132 9 3	53 3 10
Auction duty	19 9 1	13 3 0	6 6 1
Fees of office	253 2 8	93 5 9	159 16 11
Interest	600 0 0	484 14 6	115 5 6
Total	2,347 13 2	1,500 12 11	847 0 3

The under-mentioned table exhibits a comparison between the revenues of 1886 and 1887, under the various heads of estimates inclusive of arrears :—

Head of Estimate.	1887.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Customs	9,099 17 2	10,323 16 8	—	1,223 19 6
Licenses	596 0 0	780 0 0	—	184 0 0
Rents, exclusive of land	811 19 1	620 17 4	191 1 9	—
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	181 0 5	314 10 10	—	133 10 5
Land revenue	470 2 9	433 1 10	37 0 11	—
Reimbursements in aid	132 9 3	105 1 11	27 7 4	—

Head of Estimate.	1887.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Postal revenue	519 2 8	513 12 11	5 9 9	—
Miscellaneous receipts	1,035 9 11	507 2 3	528 7 8	—
Auction duty	13 3 0	16 1 10	—	2 18 10
Fees of office	93 5 9	108 7 8	—	15 1 11
Interest	484 14 6	777 18 2	—	293 3 8
Special receipts	15 13 11	27 19 0	—	12 5 1
Total	13,452 18 5	14,528 10 5	789 7 5	1,864 19 5

It will be observed that although the Customs revenue for 1886 was abnormally low, the collections for 1887 show a still further decline of 1,223*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*; the principal items under which the deficiency fell are as follows:—Ground nuts, 1,026*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*; tobacco, 106*l.* 9*s* 1*d.*; sugar, 60*l.*; and warehouse rent, 100*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* The large increase under the head of miscellaneous receipts is unfortunately due to profit on the sale of investments, which totalled 789*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

The total falling off in the revenue of 1887 as compared with the previous year amounted to 1,075*l.* 12*s.*

The arrears of revenue, properly belonging to the previous year and paid in 1887, amounted to 14*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

The estimated expenditure for the year 1887 amounted to 22,675*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*, while the actual disbursements totalled 23,908*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*; the arrears, however, were unusually large, amounting to 3,264*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

The following table will afford means of comparison between the expenditure of 1886 and 1887:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1887.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries, fixed	11,045 9 3	11,910 19 9	—	865 10 6
„ provisional and temporary	1,502 5 8	1,806 2 7	—	303 16 11
Allowances	440 15 8	465 18 10	—	25 3 2
Contingencies	110 10 8	117 14 11	—	7 4 3
Pensions, &c.	1,292 16 3	1,167 10 10	125 5 5	—
Administration of justice, exclusive of establishments	161 10 0	233 4 1	—	71 14 0
Ecclesiastical	3 6 8	—	3 6 8	—
Education	177 12 1	261 8 6	—	83 16 5
Hospitals	348 9 2	309 10 1	38 19 1	—
Police and gaols	667 0 5	1,261 16 9	—	594 16 4
Charitable allowances	171 3 3	181 7 0	—	10 3 9
Aborigines	670 13 5	444 10 11	226 2 6	—
Rent	8 3 7	11 9 0	—	3 5 5

Heads of Expenditure.	1887.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Transport - - - -	1,387 19 8	786 2 1	601 17 7	—
Conveyance of mails - - -	1,210 9 6	900 1 6	310 8 0	—
Works and buildings - - -	1,648 7 6	1,227 13 2	420 14 4	—
Roads, streets, and bridges - -	527 9 4	488 13 3	38 16 1	—
Drawbacks, &c. - - - -	290 18 11	257 8 2	33 10 9	—
Miscellaneous services - - -	1,330 9 7	1,196 19 6	133 10 1	—
Special services - - - -	500 0 0	—	500 0 0	—
Revenue services, exclusive of establishments - - - -	269 18 6	153 19 3	115 19 3	—
Treasury and Post Office - -	143 5 3	147 14 6	—	4 9
Government vessels - - -	—	22 10 8	—	22 10 8
Total - - -	23,908 14 4	23,352 15 4	2,548 9 9	1,992 10 9

It will be observed, therefore, that the expenditure of 1887 exceeded that of the previous year by 555*l.* 19*s.* This is mainly owing to the salaries of Major Festing and Mr. Lewis, who were on duty in the Gambia for some months, on Sir Samuel Rowe's staff, being paid out of the funds of this Settlement. There was likewise a contribution of 500*l.* towards the salary of the Governor-in-Chief, a charge which did not appear in the Estimates for 1886, to counterbalance this unforeseen expenditure; there were considerable savings under the head of salaries fixed, and police and gaols, the former owing principally to the Administrator and Treasurer being on half salary for some months.

Military Expenditure.

No Imperial troops have been stationed at Bathurst since 1870. The defensive force of the Gambia is composed of a native-armed police, numbering about 110 non-commissioned officers and men, the superintendent until recently being a European, who also held the post of Government Secretary. These posts, however, have been abolished, and other arrangements will be made for the command of the police. The annual cost of this force may be stated to be 4,500*l.* The numbers might, however, with advantage be increased, the force being too small for the needs of the Settlement.

There is no Volunteer Force or Militia, though Ordinance No. 2 of 1873 provides for the establishment of the former.

Public Works.

There were no public works of any magnitude undertaken in 1887. The sum of 1,648*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* was expended generally under the head of works and buildings; a portion of the seawall at Half Die broke

away and had to be renewed at a cost of 299*l.* 18*s.*, 2*d.*, a large portion of which must be considered an exceptional outlay, 50*l.* only having been voted for the maintenance of this structure.

Legislation.

The following Ordinances have been passed by the Legislative Council during the year.

No. 1, 10th January 1887.—"An Ordinance for the detention "and holding in custody of certain prisoners deported to this "Settlement from Sierra Leone."

No. 2, 10th January 1887.—"An Ordinance for interpreting "expressions in and shortening the language of Ordinances."

No. 3, 22nd February 1887.—"An Ordinance to provide for "the service of the Settlement on the River Gambia for the year "1887."

No. 4, 24th March 1887.—"An Ordinance for promoting the "public health of the Settlement on the River Gambia, and for "establishing better police regulations therein."

No. 5, 18th April 1887.—"An Ordinance for extending the "hours within which marriages may be lawfully solemnized."

No. 6, 18th April 1887.—"An Ordinance to amend an Ordi- "nance (No. 10 of 1873) for the prevention of cruelty to animals."

No. 7, 13th September 1887.—"An Ordinance to legalize "certain payments made in the year 1886, beyond the expendi- "ture authorised by law."

No. 8, 13th September 1887.—"An Ordinance to provide for "the maintenance of married women who shall have been "deserted by their husbands."

No. 9, 15th November 1887.—"An Ordinance to prohibit the "improper publication or divulging of telegraphic messages and "the forging of telegrams."

No. 10, 15th November 1887.—"An Ordinance to extend the "Customs laws to foreign parcels transmitted through the post "office."

No. 11, 22nd November 1887.—"An Ordinance to regulate "the import and export of ground nuts into and from the Settle- "ment on the River Gambia."

No. 12, 1st December 1887.—"An Ordinance for imposing "additional Customs duties."

No. 13, 1st December 1887.—"An Ordinance to impose an "Excise duty on palm wine imported into the island of St. Mary."

No. 14, 15th December 1887.—"An Ordinance to amend the "'Sale of Liquors Ordinance, 1880.'"

Legislative Council.

An additional unofficial member of the Council was appointed on the 28th February 1887 in the person of H. H. Lee, Esq.; with this exception the Legislative Council remains as before.

GAMBIA.

Civil Establishment.

The Administrator, J. S. Hay, Esq., C.M.G., having been called upon to administer the Government-in-Chief in the absence of Sir S. Rowe in England, the Treasurer, Gilbert T. Carter, Esq., who holds a Dormant Commission, assumed charge of the Gambia Government on the 12th June 1886, and retained this position until the arrival of Sir Samuel Rowe, K.C.M.G., on the 29th April 1887, who remained at Bathurst owing to political troubles in the River, and Mr. Carter proceeded to England on leave of absence on the 23rd May.

Pensions.

Pensioner Thomas Cole, who was in receipt of 4*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* yearly, died in May 1887, causing a reduction to this amount in the Pension List.

On the other hand, the Colonial Chaplain, the Rev. G. C. Nicol, retired from the service on the 1st October, on a pension of 180*l.* per annum, and Mr. William R. Carew, formerly engineer to the Government steamer, was granted on the 19th July 1887 a pension of 28*l.* 16*s.* per annum.

POPULATION, &C.

The last census was taken in 1881, when the population was returned as 14,150. It has probably remained much about the same. It is feared that the ratio is not an increasing one, owing to the unfavourable conditions of life in the Settlement, but more especially in Bathurst, which is not susceptible of any satisfactory system of drainage. Small-pox is more or less prevalent every year, and the mortality amongst infants at all times is great. The following interesting report has been supplied by the registrar.

REPORT on the Registry of Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Aliens for the Year 1887.

Births.

The total number of births registered in the Settlement during the year 1887 was 293, an excess of 73 on the births registered in the preceding year; of these 193 were registered at Bathurst, 24 at British Combo, 30 on the Ceded Mile, 14 at Albreda, and 32 at Macarthy's Island. Divided according to sex there were 162 males born and 131 females, 6·48 per cent. only being legitimate.

Deaths.

The deaths registered during the period under review, reckoning still births, numbered 871 as against 566 in 1886. In Bathurst 466 deaths were registered, in British Combo 153, on the Ceded

Mile and at Albreda 200, and at Macarthy's Island 52. It will be observed that the death rate is unusually high, the per-centage being 6·16 as against 4 per cent. in the previous year, computing by the figures of the census in 1881. This increase is in part attributable to the outbreak of small-pox, which terminated fatally in 146 cases. There was also a considerable mortality among the infants, 274 of whom succumbed to convulsions consequent upon teething, diarrhœa, and other infantile ailments. In January there were 46 deaths, in February 38, in March 41, in April 50, in May 60, in June 92, in July 91, in August 104, in September 101, in October 95, in November 84, and in December 69. The European deaths numbered 6, Mulatto deaths 3, and native deaths 862.

The registered causes of death were as follows:—Abscess, 1; accidental drowning, 2; acute peritonitis, 1; alcoholism, 1; anasarca, 1; apoplexy, 1; asthma, 4; bowel complaints, 31; Bright's disease of the kidneys, 2; cachexia, 1; cardiac hypertrophy and valvular disease of the heart, 8; chest affections, 68; child-birth, 7; cholera infantium, 1; colic, 1; congestion of the lungs, 6; consumption, 4; convulsions, 38; debility, 5; diarrhœa, 43; diseases of the lungs, 1; diseases of the spleen, 2; dropsy, 42; dysentery 22, gunshot wounds, 1; hepatic congestion, 2; lethargus, 3; malarial fever, 1; marasmus, 5; mumps, 1; murder, 2; phthisis, 1; piles, 1; pneumonia, 1; remittent fever, 79; rupture, 1; scrofula, 3; senile decay, 25; small-pox, 146; softening of the brain, 1; starvation, 3; still births, 54; tetanus, 2; thrombosis, 2; ulcers, 16; ulceration of the lungs, 1; venereal diseases, 2; unclassified and undefined, 224.

The causes of European deaths were fever, 3; acute peritonitis, 1; exhaustion, 1; thrombosis, 1.

The number of deaths medically certified to was 52, of which 42 were by Colonial Hospital returns, and 10 by the coroner's inquisitions.

The rank and station of the persons who died during the year were as follows:—Alcali, 1; alien African children, 14; Arabic writer, 1; blacksmiths, 2; butchers, 3; captain, 1; carpenters, 3; churchwarden, 1; convict prisoners, 4; cooks, 2; domestic servants, 5; engineer, 1; farmers, 231; ferryman, 1; fishermen 3; gardener, 1; Government interpreter, 1; house painter, 1; infants, 274; labourers, 31; lamplighter, 1; masons, 4; Mohammedan priest, 1; palm wine makers, 2; paupers, 4; pedlar, 1; pilot, 1; political prisoner, 1; police constables, 4; Roman Catholic minister, 1; sailmaker, 1; sailors, 21; schoolmasters, 2; seamstress, 1; shepherds, 7; shipwrights, 2; shopkeeper, 1; tailors, 2; traders, 38; warrior, 1; washerwomen, 13; weavers, 6; Wesleyan minister, 1 writing clerk, 1; unascertained, 173.

Marriages.

The number of marriages solemnized in the Settlement during the year was 16. Of these five were solemnized in the Church of England, six in the Wesleyan chapels, and five in the Roman Catholic church.

Aliens.

The number of registered aliens on the register on the 31st December 1887 was 529. During the year 92 alien children were registered, of whom 15 were males and 77 females. Divided according to their nationalities, there were registered 61 Jolahs, 15 Mandingoes, 12 Joloffs, 1 Timneh, 1 Bambarra, and 2 Seriahs.

Twenty-four alien children died during the year, 14 obtained their release, and 5 escaped.

Thirty-three alien children were removed from the Settlement by the permission of the Administrator, 13 of whom have returned to the Settlement, and 20 are still absent.

* * * *

Savings Banks, Friendly Societies, &c.

The savings bank, which was established in 1884, progresses rapidly in its number of depositors; at the close of the year the amount under deposit totalled 493*l.* 3*s.*, as compared with 108*l.* 7*s.* in 1886.

There are numerous friendly societies in the Settlement, which mostly take the form of burial clubs; they are regulated by an Ordinance passed in 1865. The savings bank is available for the deposit of their funds if they wish to take advantage of it.

Education.

Educational matters in the Settlement have been dealt with very fully by the Inspector of Schools in his report for 1887–8. There is much room for improvement, but the Roman Catholics have shown marked progress. The Wesleyans, on the other hand, have retrograded, while the Anglican school, under the care of the Rev. A. Davies, exhibits decided signs of increased vitality.

The important question of industrial training has received attention only from the Roman Catholics, and Mr. Sunter very properly lays great stress upon the urgent need for systematic work in this direction. There are many difficulties in the way of inducing parents to make some sacrifice on behalf of their children in this Settlement, and unless some law is passed making education compulsory I doubt if much progress will ever be made. Most parents are utterly callous in regard to the intellectual culture of their offspring, and so long as they are able to make a bare living at any occupation, however degrading, parents appear to be satisfied. The question is indeed a very difficult one, and it is hard to establish the happy mean so essential to the real welfare of this people. On the one hand, there is the danger of Europeanising the African, which in my opinion is a fatal mistake; and, on the other, there is the certainty, if he is treated superficially, that he will relapse into barbaric habits so soon as he is removed from the influence of his teachers. Unhappily the taste of the people does

not lie in industrial work. Their natural indolence induces them to prefer being clerks and storekeepers, although the demand for this class of labour is at best a restricted one; and when occupation of this kind is secured, national garments are discarded, and a black coat and tall hat considered "*de rigueur*" on Sundays, a style of costume wholly unsuited to the African and to the climate. This leads to other needless extravagances, and instead of his position and habits being improved, they are distinctly made worse.

The earnings of the schools for 1887 amounted to 183*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* as against 155*l.* in 1886, though the former inspection was only allowed to count for six months, and consequently only half the amount was paid; the school year now extends from the 1st July to 30th June.

Gaols, Prisoners, &c.

At the commencement of the year there were 41 prisoners in the gaol, 146 were admitted during the year, 130 were discharged, 7 escaped, and 5 died; 45 therefore remained at the close of the year, of whom 4 were females.

There were 42 punishments for breach of gaol discipline, viz., 34 by reduction of allowance, 7 by solitary confinement, and 1 by flogging.

Criminal Statistics.

There is nothing worthy of special remark in the criminal statistics for the year, except that the chief magistrate in his report considers that the statistics tend to show that crime is on the wane. There were 315 offences brought before the magistrates during the year as against 370 in 1886.

Imports and Exports.

The under-mentioned notes have been supplied by the Customs in regard to the imports and exports. It will be observed that although the export of ground nuts shows a large falling off, and has been reduced to the attenuated amount of 2,999 tons, the imports generally show an increase.

The total imports reached the sum of 74,679*l.* as against 69,508*l.* in 1886.

Cotton Goods.—In this year cotton goods to the value of 12,319*l.* were imported as against 9,197*l.* in the previous year, showing an increase of 3,122*l.* over 1886, but a decrease of 12,430*l.* as compared with the mean annual value of cottons imported during the past three years 1884–6.

Tobacco.—252,361 lbs. were imported this year as compared with 184,064 lbs. in 1886, an increase of 68,297 lbs. over the quantity imported in 1886. The average import of this article during the past three years 1884–6 was 168,454 lbs.

Spirits of all Kinds.—60,756 gallons were imported as compared with 25,264 gallons in 1886; the mean annual quantity imported during the past three years 1884–6 being 34,476 gallons.

Wines showed an increase of 1,368 gallons as compared with last year, 13,313 gallons having been imported in this year as against 11,945 gallons in 1886.

Salt.—872 tons only were imported in this year, 1,214 tons in 1886; a decrease of 242 tons as compared with last year. The average import of the three years 1884–6 being 1,149 tons.

Sugar.—84,274 lbs. were imported as against 75,476 lbs. in the previous year, an increase of 8,798 lbs. over that of 1886, but a decrease of 18,453 lbs. as compared with the average import of the three years 1884–6.

Fire-arms.—881 were imported as against 818 in 1886, the average import of arms during the years 1884–6 being 3,284.

Gunpowder.—652 barrels were imported as compared with 171 barrels in 1886; while the average import of the three years 1884–6 was 397 barrels.

Rice.—870 tons only were imported, valued at 7,335*l.*, as against 1,477 in 1886, valued at 11,224*l.*, the decrease in quantity amounting to 607 tons.

Kola nuts.—In 1886 there were imported 293,723 lbs. of kola nuts, whilst 356,579 lbs. were imported in this year; thus showing an increase of 62,856 lbs.

Notwithstanding the interruption to trade in the Upper River caused partly by native wars, but still more by the French taking possession of Badibou in the early part of the year, the imports for 1887 as compared with those for the past year show no diminution. On the contrary, an increase is noticeable in nearly every item of goods imported.

Exports.

The exports for the year amounted to 86,932*l.* as against 79,516*l.* for 1886, and an average of 132,794*l.* for the three years 1884–6.

Ground Nuts.—2,999 tons were exported, valued at 26,001*l.*, as against 5,996 tons in 1886, valued at 38,402*l.*, 12,354 tons in 1885, and 18,403 tons in 1884.

Hides were exported this year to the value of 7,367*l.* as against 7,765*l.* in 1886.

Rubber has been exported this year to the value of 12,848*l.* as against 11,376*l.* in the previous year, 2,670*l.* in 1885, and 15,685*l.* in 1884.

Palm Kernels.—559 tons, valued at 3,553*l.*, have been exported this year, whilst only 153 tons, valued at 1,422*l.*, were exported last year; the average for the past three years 1884–6 being 165 tons, valued 1,586*l.*

Wax gave a total value of export of 5,539*l.* for this year as compared with 4,358*l.* for the past year.

Corn fairly keeps pace with the increase in the other articles of exports above dealt with.

Shipping.

The total number of sailing vessels entered during the year was 106. The tonnage of these vessels in the aggregate amounted to 5,538, and their crews to 677.

In the year 1886 only 83 sailing vessels entered; but the aggregate tonnage was larger, viz., 6,405, with crews numbering 596.

The total number of sailing vessels cleared amounted to 110, with a tonnage of 5,015 and crews 671, while for the previous year 83 vessels cleared, with a tonnage of 6,529 and crews 587.

The total number of steam vessels entered was 67, with tonnage amounting to 53,441 and crews 2,225.

For the previous year 77 steam vessels entered, with tonnage of 61,765 and crews 2,557.

Clearances of steam vessels in 1887 totalled 67, with a tonnage of 53,442 and crews 2,225, while for the previous year 76 steamers cleared with a tonnage of 61,597 and crews 2,514.

Of the 106 sailing vessels entered, the nationalities were as follows:—

British - - - - -	27
French - - - - -	74
American - - - -	4
German - - - -	1
	106

Of the 110 sailing vessels cleared, the following were the nationalties:—

British - - - - -	29
French - - - - -	76
German - - - -	1
American - - - -	4
	110

Of the 67 steam vessels entered, the following were the nationalities:—

British - - - - -	37
French - - - - -	29
German - - - -	1
	67

Of the 109 steam vessels cleared, the following were the nationalities:—

British - - - - -	37
French - - - - -	29
German - - - -	1
	67

GAMBIA.

Hospitals.

The following report has been made by the Colonial Surgeon in regard to the hospital statistics for the year.

During 1887 our admissions were 215 as against 192 in 1886.

Of these 215 cases, eight were Europeans. Two were treated for intermittent and one remittent fever, but they all three died. There was a case of insolation treated and discharged cured. The other four were cases of syphilis, wounds, rheumatism, &c., and all these were discharged cured.

The remaining 207 cases were natives suffering chiefly from small-pox, ulcers, disease of the digestive organs, wounds, intermittent fever, disease of the respiratory organs, abscess, rheumatism, starvation, disease of the urinary organs, syphilis, &c.

The deaths were 38, including three Europeans. Small-pox alone numbered 13; in the others the causes of death were disease of the digestive organs, including disease of the liver, mesentery glands, spleen, &c., including seven deaths from starvation.

In the Extern Department there were 3,023 cases treated, of which 853 males and 402 females were new cases, and 1,325 males and 443 females were old cases. The prevailing diseases among this class of patients were ulcers, intermittent fever, diarrhœa, wounds, &c.

During the month of May the great Marabout Chief, Saide Mattie, of Baddiboo, fled into British territory with many of his followers (men, women and children). Nearly all were in a miserable condition, suffering from starvation and diseases of various kinds, principally from small-pox; and this tended to increase our death rate.

About this time there was a general outbreak of small-pox all over the British Settlement. At Barra the Government erected two small-pox hospitals for the reception of the cases in that district. A special medical officer was employed to attend on the sick.

Vaccination stations were also established all along the Ceded Mile, as far as Albreda, and hundreds were vaccinated successfully. In British Combo also vaccination was performed with a view to arrest the spread of small-pox, and I think with success. Small-pox, therefore, was epidemic throughout the Settlement of the Gambia in 1887.

Among the European residents I regret to have to record three deaths from disease of the liver and intermittent fever.

Among the native community malarial fever and diarrhœa prevailed, arising from various causes, such as dampness (particularly at Half Die, where the embankment gave way during the high tide, and that part was inundated by the sea), want of sufficient food and proper clothing, and badly ventilated habitations.

Our death rate for 1887 is large, much larger than any preceding year; small-pox figured prominently.

The amount of rainfall during 1887 was 53·96, a little below that of 1886.

General Remarks.

The year 1887 was an important one in the political history of the Gambia. In the Blue Book Report for 1885 some details were given of the unhappy differences then existing in the kingdom of Baddiboo, a country which under favourable conditions contributed in no small degree to the prosperity of the Settlement, from its capabilities of growing the staple product of the Gambia—ground nuts.

The Baddiboo war in conjunction with a simultaneous depression in the value of this merchandize caused a most disastrous falling off in the revenue of the Settlement, and it was evident that some special effort had to be made to bring about a peaceful settlement of the difficulty. Accordingly, after prolonged negotiation and much difficulty, the Acting Administrator succeeded in arranging a basis of peace, and the two rival Chiefs, Beram Ceasey and Saide Mattie, signed treaties with this Government in February 1887, guaranteeing to stop the war, and to engage in no further hostilities without reference to the Governor of Bathurst.

For a short time matters progressed very satisfactorily, and once more preparations were made to cultivate Baddiboo as heretofore; but, unhappily, Saide Mattie, in opposition to emphatic advice given by the Acting Administrator when the subject was mentioned, persisted in his expressed intention to go to the adjoining kingdom of Saloum to obtain reprisals for some wrong, imaginary or real, committed by the King of that country against him. Accordingly he proceeded with a strong contingent of his army to Saloum shortly after the treaty was signed. At this juncture the King of Saloum sought the assistance of the French, who espoused his cause and warned Saide Mattie to return to Baddiboo. The latter was, however, defiant, and a fight ensued, in which Saide Mattie and his army were routed and driven back to a town called Ker Maba, whence they were pursued by the French, and once more compelled to fly. Saide Mattie, seeing that his cause was hopeless, took refuge at Albreda, where, in deference to the request of the Governor-in-Chief, who shortly before this event had arrived in the Settlement, he laid down his arms and consented to be conveyed to Bathurst, where he has remained ever since.

The following figures will show the startling decline in the export of ground nuts during the last five years:—

Year.	Tons.
1883	23,094
1884	18,404
1885	12,354
1886	5,996
1887	2,986

This industry will, however, I think, revive; and, although no doubt ground nuts will, like other oil-producing substances, be

GAMBIA.

subject to considerable fluctuations in price, this will not happen to the same extent as in the case of palm oil. The principal use of palm oil hitherto has been as a lubricant, and it was extensively used by railway companies for that purpose; but other and cheaper fatty substances have lately come into competition with it, and I understand that even mineral oils have recently been utilized for lubricating purposes. Ground nut oil has the advantage of being used as a substitute for olive oil, and in the manufacture of butterine, for which purposes, for the present at any rate, no other oil seems so well adapted. No country, however, which relies upon one staple can be permanently prosperous, and strenuous efforts should be made to develop other industrial (re)sources. With an idle and procrastinating race, utterly devoid of ambition or a desire for progress, the difficulties are great, but with a decided initiative on the part of the Government they might, I think, be overcome. It is my intention to propose the addition of a small sum in the Estimates for 1889, to be devoted to agricultural experiments in the grounds of Government House, which are sufficiently extensive for the purpose, and I have great hope that some good may result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. CARTER,
Administrator.

His Excellency
The Administrator-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.
Sierra Leone.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 7.

GIBRALTAR.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
May 1888.

LONDON:
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BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
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1888.

[C.—5249.—4.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title-page :—

No.	Colony.	Price.
1	Virgin Islands - - -	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	2
3	Gambia - - - -	1
4	Victoria - - - -	2½
5	New Zealand - -	5
6	Tobago - - - -	1

No. 7.

GIBRALTAR.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5071] ; 1885 [C.—4842] ; 1884 [C.—4404] ; 1883 [C.—4193] ; 1882 [C.—3794].

Governor Sir A. E. HARDINGE to Lord KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Gibraltar, March 27, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1887, with a report by the Acting Colonial Secretary thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. HARDINGE,
General and Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of GIBRALTAR for 1887.

Finance.

The actual revenue of the Colony for 1887 amounted to 1,400,144·32 pesetas (55,517*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*), which, compared with the revenue of 1886, shows an increase of 85,598·28 pesetas (3,394*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*). This increase is owing chiefly to the three following sources of revenue, viz., port dues, postage and commission on money orders, and slaughter-house fees. The port dues show an increase of 69,296 · 50 pesetas (2,747*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*), due to a larger number of vessels calling at this port in 1887 consequent on the prevalence of cholera at Malta and other Mediterranean ports. The increase under the head of postage and commission on money orders is 30,496 · 99 pesetas (1,209*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*). This increase, which is really an apparent one, may be ascribed principally to the net revenue only of the post office having been brought to account in 1886, as in that year payments were made out of postal revenue by the post-mistress to the extent of 19,417 · 47 pesetas

GIBRALTAR.

(769*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*), and is also attributable to the sum of 4,425·49 pesetas (175*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*) revenue of 1886 brought to account in 1887, the actual increase being only 2,228·54 pesetas (88*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*), as will be seen by the following statement:—

	Pts.		Pts.
Revenue for 1886 - -	146,636·97	Revenue for 1887 - -	177,133·96
Payments by post-mistress not brought to account -	19,417·47	Pts.	
Revenue for 1886 brought to account in 1887 -	4,425·49	Deduct revenue for 1886 paid in 1887 4,425·49	
		Deduct actual increase - 2,228·54	
			6,654·03
	170,479·93		170,479·93

The increase under the head of slaughter-house fees, amounting to 4,417·35 pesetas (175*l.* 3*s.*), is explained by the fact that more cattle have been slaughtered in Gibraltar during 1887, owing to the prohibition on the importation of dead meat from Barbary in consequence of the insanitary state of the slaughter-houses here.

The only appreciable decrease of revenue in 1887 as compared with 1886 is found under the heads of ground rents and the sale of revenue stamps. The ground rent receipts show an apparent falling off of 7,383·85 pesetas (292*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*), the cause of this being that the sum of 8,247·69 pesetas (327*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*) was received in excess in 1886 as compared with 1885, certain ground tenants preferring to pay their rents in advance. With regard to the decrease under the head of sale of revenue stamps, I have to explain that the use of these stamps is simply limited to the payment of fees in the Supreme Court and the police court, and therefore the decrease of revenue under this head may be caused by either one or more of the following reasons, viz.:—Less litigation in the Supreme Court; decrease in the number of documents relating to Crown property requiring registration in the Supreme Court, and in the number of police prosecutions.

On reference to the comparative statement of revenue for 1887 and that for 1886, it will be observed that in the revenue for 1887 a falling off is shown under the heads of sitting magistrates' fines and documents relating to Crown property, amounting to 3467·14 pesetas (137*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*) and 787·90 pesetas (31*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*).

The expenditure of the Colony for 1887 amounted to 1,328,990·93 pesetas (52,695*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*), exceeding that of the previous year by 58,156·02 pesetas (2,305*l.* 19*s.*). This excess is caused by increased expenditure in almost all the departments, with the exception of the departments of the inspector of revenues, the police magistrate, the police and the lunatic asylum, which show a decrease. A decrease of expenditure is also shown under the heads of medical and hospitals, Crown Agents, and roads, streets.

The foregoing figures show that the revenue of 1887 exceeded the expenditure in that year by 71,153 · 39 pesetas (2,821*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*). This surplus, together with the sum of 42,297 · 74 pesetas (1,676*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*), received in aid of revenue, and the cash balance on 1st January 1887, have enabled this Government to invest in Colonial securities during 1887 the sum of 4,542*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*

The cash balance in the Treasury on 31st December 1887, which was carried forward to the credit of the year 1888, amounted to 32,100 · 54 pesetas (1,272*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*).

Public Debt.

There is no public debt, the revenue being generally in excess of the ordinary expenditure. In the Blue Book for the year the Sanitary Commissioner's debt is shown.

Works and Buildings.

The more important works undertaken during the year were the following, viz. :—

1. Civil hospital female ward.
2. Completion of extension of Waterport Wharf.
3. Extension of North Front slaughter-house.
4. Enlargement of cattle lair, North Front.
5. Additional cells at civil prison.

Of these services, the first, fourth, and fifth mentioned are still in course of completion.

Legislation.

The following were the Ordinances passed in the Colony during the year :—

1.—An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to registration of births and deaths.

2.—An Ordinance to repeal the Ordinance, dated 27th November 1868, relating to vaccination in Gibraltar, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

3.—An Ordinance to prevent sketching, &c., by unauthorised persons within the city, garrison, and territory of Gibraltar.

4.—An Ordinance to authorise an inquiry into certain matters connected with the civil police force of Gibraltar.

Civil Establishment.

There were no important changes in the service during the year, except the appointment of Mr. A. W. Fawkes as police magistrate, instead of Colonel Gilbard, deceased.

Education.

In 1887 a Committee was appointed to inquire into and report upon the question of elementary education in Gibraltar, and their report having been duly submitted to the Secretary of State, the formulation of the details of a scheme for the improvement of the present system of elementary education in Gibraltar is now being carefully considered by this Government.

Exchange, Money, &c.

With reference to the fluctuations of the rate of exchange during the year, it may be remarked that the highest rate of exchange from pesetas into sterling during the year was pesetas 2,585 per 100*l.*, and the lowest rate was pesetas 2,550 per 100*l.*

Shipping.

The following statistics show the increase in the number, tonnage, and crews of vessels entered at this port last year, as compared with the arrivals in 1886.

Arrivals in 1887, viz. :—

	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Sailing Vessels - -	764	89,946	5,310
Steamers - - -	5,627	5,169,981	142,031
	6,391	5,259,927	147,341
Total arrivals in 1887 -	6,391	5,259,927	147,341
Do. 1886 -	5,581	4,309,583	127,752
Increase in 1887 - -	810	950,344	19,589

Gaols and Prisoners.

In accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, measures have been taken for providing additional cells for the separation of the convicts under sentence of penal servitude from other prisoners and the necessary alterations at the prison are all but completed.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of summary convictions before the police magistrate was 813, or 139 less than in 1886, and before the captain of the port 143, or 98 more than in 1886.

The majority of these cases were for minor offences.

Nineteen cases were brought for trial before the Supreme Court, namely, one of murder, nine of offences against the person, five of offences against property, and four of miscellaneous offences.

Verdicts for the Crown were returned in nine of these cases, and in one case the prisoner pleaded guilty. In one case of assault the bill was ignored by the grand jury, in one case of wounding a "nolle prosequi" was entered by the Attorney-General, and in seven cases verdicts were found for the prisoners.

Public Health.

The public health of Gibraltar in 1887 was not so satisfactory as in the previous year, the death rate being higher, which is chiefly due to the very severe epidemic of measles that prevailed among children during the first half of the year, and this necessitated the closing of the schools for a time in order to check the spread of the disease. At the latter end of the year an epidemic of scarlet fever also showed itself among children, but it proved of a mild nature, there being only one fatal case.

General Remarks.

Although the financial condition of the Colonial revenue continues to be prosperous, the trade of the place is, with the exception of the coaling business, very dull and affords very little prospect of improvement.

(Signed) MELFORT CAMPBELL,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Gibraltar, 26th March 1888.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 8.

GOLD COAST.

VISIT OF GOVERNOR SIR BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, K.C.M.G.,

TO THE

EASTERN DISTRICTS OF THE COLONY.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
June 1888.

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1888.

[C.—5249.—5.]

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No. 8.

GOLD COAST.

VISIT OF GOVERNOR SIR BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, K.C.M.G., TO THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF THE COLONY.

No. 1.

Sir B. GRIFFITH (Gold Coast) to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR, Addah Foah, February 21, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to report that I embarked from Christiansborg on board of Her Majesty's ship "Icarus" on the morning of the 13th instant, accompanied by the Auditor, Mr. Bartlett, the Surveyor General, Mr. Pagan, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. McCarthy, the Inspector General, Lieut.-Colonel McInnis, Mr. Hull, Assistant Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Cowie, my Private Secretary.

2. I landed at Pram Pram about 3 p.m. with Mr. Pagan, Dr. McCarthy, and Mr. Hull, and inspected the cash and books of the District Commissioner, Mr. Yorke, a native official, finding both in order. The cash amounted to 90*l.* 12*s.* I then walked to the upper town and inspected the streets, of the gutters of which the District Commissioner had constantly complained, and had recommended that they should be paved. This I at once decided, after consultation with the Surveyor General, could not be done. It would cost some thousands of pounds, and if the people exert themselves a little they can do much by filling them up and concentrating the water to improve the gulleys through which the watercourses are formed. I spoke to the King or Chief, an old man, who Mr. Yorke stated had lost all the control over the people which might once have attached to his stool. The only request that he made of me was to be allowed to revive an old custom, part of which consisted in the exhumation of the dead, and which I, of course, declined to sanction. I spoke to the traders and people, and urged upon them the advantage of cultivating cotton, for which the soil of the place is admirably adapted; and I showed them some of fine staple and colour which I had plucked on the way up to the town from the beach. I also tasted the water which was still obtainable, notwithstanding the advanced stage of the season, from an open hole near the town, and found it sweet and of fair quality. I told them that they had better exert themselves and enlarge it, when I would afford them some

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pecuniary assistance if I saw them helping themselves. A sum of 1,000*l.* is placed on the estimates of the current year for the construction of a tank at Pram Pram. I found, however, that there is no stone in the neighbourhood, and I have instructed the Surveyor General to revisit the place with a view to avoiding this expenditure if he finds that other and more economical methods of procuring water can be resorted to. No European is at present resident at Pram Pram, or likely to be. I also instructed the District Commissioner to sink a trial well near the sea, where I thought they could not fail to obtain a sufficient supply if they dug deep enough. They have one well already formed of sunken barrels, the water of which was pronounced by the Chief Medical Officer to be of a fairly potable character. There is a Wesleyan school in the upper town. The Basel Mission have a trading station here, but neither chapel nor school. Pram Pram is in the medical district of Addah, and is visited occasionally by Dr. Cole from thence. The police barracks, accoutrements, and arms were in a satisfactory condition, and so were the District Commissioner's court and the lock-up. Pigs swarm in Pram Pram, but as the natives do not seem to suffer from their presence, and they are a source of profit, I did not consider it necessary to interfere with them.

3. Re-embarking the same evening, I arrived off Quittah next morning, the 14th instant, but having been affected with several of the other officers by the harmattan wind off the lagoon, I could not land until the 15th instant; I found Quittah Fort in a dirty, unwhitewashed state, as were also the lock-ups. The average of prisoners is only a little over two per day per annum. No foreman of works was available for duty at Quittah during the past year. I hope that I may be able to send one down this year. I have authorised the District Commissioner to do what he can in the way of cleaning the premises independently of the Public Works Department.

The cash and books of the District Commissioner were examined by the auditor, who reports to me both as in a satisfactory condition. The balance only amounted to some 150*l.* The ammunition in the magazine was reported by Assistant Inspector Cockeram, who is acting as District Commissioner, to be in serviceable condition. I selected a suitable site for the new hospital in conjunction with the Chief Medical Officer, the District Medical Officer, the District Commissioner, and the Surveyor General. Some doubt had existed at head-quarters as to the best site for this building, and I was glad to be able to settle the point on the spot with the concurrence of all the Heads of Departments directly concerned. The place used as a hospital at present is the open basement beneath the District Commissioner's court within the walls of the Fort, which is open to wind and weather and wholly unsuitable for the purpose. A sum of 200*l.* was placed on the Estimates of the year 1887 for the construction of a hospital, but it was unexpended, proving insufficient in amount. I fear that the building which it is proposed to erect will be found to cost nearer 800*l.* when

the plan and estimates are got out. An iron tank has been requisitioned for, to increase the water supply of the Fort. The water supply of the town is provided for by wells, which in the sandy spit of land between the lagoon and the sea on which Quittah is built, if of sufficient depth, do not run dry. The Fort, built of swish by Inspector Firminger some two and a half years ago, with a view to commanding the landing-place on the lagoon side, I found to have more than half collapsed from the action of the weather. I visited the grave of the late Captain Douglas, round and over which a wooden paling and cross had been placed by my order some weeks ago. The town appeared to be clean and in good order. The District Commissioner has succeeded in eliminating the pigs from the town. He appears, I am happy to be able to state, to be discharging his duties with judgment and success. Suitable positions were selected for the 20 street lamps, which have just come out, by the Surveyor General and District Commissioner, and Mr. Pagan has also examined the town with a view to the declaration of a sufficient number of open spaces under the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, a measure of public policy which I found had hitherto escaped notice.

4. On the 17th instant I received the principal Chiefs and merchants in the District Commissioner's court, and I asked them whether they had any communications which they wished to make to me on the condition of their district. They replied in the negative, stating, however, that they desired that the duty on spirits which has been lowered experimentally in this district from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* per gallon might be lowered still further to 6*d.* per gallon. At the same time they expressed their satisfaction at the abolition of the *ad valorem* duties, and stated, in reply to my inquiries, that smuggling had not as yet been checked, and that the passing of rum landed at the German Station at Beh Beach was still rife. The head of the Bremer Mission also rose and expressed his sense of the improvement which had taken place with regard to the agents of their Mission, who now passed safely along the roads to Ho. This some of the other native chiefs alleged was not the case as regards traders, who were molested. Tamakio, however, mentioned that a vast improvement had taken place of late years in the communications surrounding Quittah, and that there was greater safety to life and property. I informed them in reply that Captain Lonsdale, the only officer available for travelling duty, had been engaged in Ashanti for many months last year, but that as soon as I had an officer available I would send him up this route. Another question is involved in this matter, as the people who are accused of molesting the traders are said to be instigated by certain refugees from the Awoonahs on the coast line, for whose capture rewards are offered and whose apprehension is a matter of time and opportunity. It should, however, in my judgment be effected with prudence and a sufficient show of strength to disarm the collision which might otherwise arise.

5. I took the opportunity before the meeting separated of advising the native Chiefs and other natives who were present to make

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up their minds that the smuggling trade would be put a stop to, for that I was determined that it should cease; and I inculcated the same idea with others with whom I came in contact. There can be no just cause of complaint, therefore, hereafter of unwonted rigour on the part of the Government in the repression of smuggling. I again here pressed upon the people the advantages of cotton cultivation, and the consequent introduction of another staple of export besides palm oil. The measures to be taken for the repression of smuggling and the safe-guarding of the trade route to Ho are occupying my anxious attention and will form the subject of a separate report.

6. On the 18th instant I proceeded in the "Icarus" to Afflowhoo, the eastern boundary of the Colony, the ship leaving for Lagos, while I returned by hammock overland to Quittah. I observed that the boundary path which was cut in the year 1885 between the German and British territory had become overgrown with bush, as must be always the case unless the expense of clearing it every three months is incurred. I take this opportunity of expressing my sense of the courteous attention which has been shown to myself, my staff, and my wishes by Commander Annesley, R.N., and which I should be glad if you would be pleased to cause to be communicated to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty if you should think fit to do so. At Dance, some four miles to the westward of the flagstaff at Afflowhoo, I stopped and examined the Government quarters, which appeared to be in good condition, and I held a meeting of the Afflowhoo Chiefs. Here also I warned them of my intention to check the smuggling, and recommended them to cultivate cotton. Passing along the beach I saw evidence of the decline of trade in certain stores which were closed; on the other hand I had seen from the ship no less than seven substantial stores erected on the shore at Beh Beach in German territory.

7. On Sunday, the 19th instant, I rested and received gentlemen who wished to call upon me, and on the 20th instant I left Quittah at 5 a.m. for the Volta, passing through the various Awoonah villages to the Attititeh Creek, which was reached after 11 hours' travelling at 6 p.m., and crossed the river to Addah, where I arrived at 7 p.m. last night. I found that the village of Big Awoonah, which had been burnt in the disturbances of 1885, had been rebuilt. I rested there with my party for an hour among the cocoanut trees outside the town, and received a friendly message from the Chief, which I returned with the present of 10*s.* and two bottles of champagne. I noticed no resentment on the part of the natives through whom I passed, which I consider a gratifying sign. The road is devious and sandy. I should be glad, if I find it to be possible, to have it improved by straightening it and having it cleared. Some considerable sum of money was spent in the year 1882 on widening and deepening the inland creek, which runs along parallel to the beach, to enable a steam launch to get through to Jita and Attoko from the Volta, but, so far as I can see, without any advantageous result. I saw no cultivation on the route between

Quittah and the Volta beyond a few patches of provisions and frequent groves of cocoanut trees, the fruit of which is solely used for home consumption. If an export trade of these nuts could once be started it should pay as well here as elsewhere. The land, moreover, is as well suited for cotton as that at Pram Pram and the other side of Quittah. GOLD COAST.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 2.

Sir B. GRIFFITH (Gold Coast) to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Akuse, Volta River District,
February 26, 1888.

SIR,

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that I held a meeting of the Chiefs and people of Addah outside the District Commissioner's quarters on the afternoon of the 21st instant, the day after my arrival, at which I received a most loyal and enthusiastic reception.

2. I informed the people that I was glad to come among them, and thanked them for the kindness with which they had welcomed me as the representative of Her Majesty. I held in my hand some petitions which they had sent to Colonel White, during my absence from the Colony, but with which he had been unable to deal, and I went through the representations made in them, which were the same as those which they brought forward at the meeting, on my asking if they had anything they wished to say to me, viz., the construction of roads from Big Addah to Addah on the beach, and from the riverside to the beach; 2nd, the provision of a Government school; 3rd, the granting of stipends to the Chiefs similar to those allowed to the Chiefs in the Quittah District; 4th, the reduction of the duty on rum to 1*s.*; 5th, the provision of wells, a public bell to mark the time, and a free ferry across the Volta; and 6th, the building of a Queen's warehouse on the beach.

3. As regards the first want, I told them that I had brought the Surveyor General down with me to examine and report upon the roads, and that I would ask the Legislative Council to vote the necessary funds to construct the two bridges required for the road to Big Addah if I found that they would not be too expensive, but that I should expect them to help themselves and make the two roads under supervision, which the Chiefs promised should be done. As regards the second point, I showed them that the Basel Mission had already two schools of which they failed to avail themselves.

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I am averse to incurring the expense of another Government school in addition to those at Accra and Cape Coast if it can be avoided for the present. In reference to the third point, I told them that I was unable to grant them any stipends or to make any reduction in the rum duty. I stated, however, that I would provide the bell for them and instruct the District Commissioner to sink a trial well to show them how to construct others properly, but that they ought to be easily able to provide themselves with a sufficient supply of water in the sandy soil where it is everywhere obtainable at very little depth. I also told them that I would consider the question of the provision of a free ferry, and I showed to them that with the abolition of the *ad valorem* duties there was now no special necessity for the erection of a Queen's warehouse on the beach.

4. I then impressed upon the people my intention to repress the smuggling which I was aware was being carried on from Beh Beach and the Quittah District, and endeavoured to interest them in the cultivation of cotton. I have since heard from the superintendent of the Basel Mission that my words have had a good effect, and Dr. Cole, the assistant surgeon at Addah, has promised to interest himself in the subject.

5. On the 22nd instant the Chiefs expressed a wish to see me again, whereupon I received them; they were accompanied by the agent and superintendent of the Basel Mission. They came to renew their applications for the reduction of the rum duty and the grant of stipends, but after a lengthy discussion I succeeded in explaining to them why the same customs policy which is being experimentally tried in the Quittah District could not be applied to Addah, as well as that there was no reason for granting the stipends allowed to the Awoonah Chiefs under special treaties to the Chiefs of Addah, with whom no such treaties were extant. They left me apparently satisfied and in good humour. In the early morning of the same day the Surveyor General arranged the distribution of the new lamps, marked out suitable places for declaration under the law as open spaces, and selected a site for a cemetery; and I also inspected the dispensary, lock-up, and town myself. I found the dispensary in a state most creditable to Dr. Cole, who takes a most active interest in his duties. The lock-up was in as satisfactory a condition as could be expected. A new court room has just been hired from the Basel Mission, and the town was on the whole in a cleanly condition. I further went to the riverside, where I found that the supports of the Government coal shed had given way. The roof, however, was in good condition, and I have ordered the re-erection of the shed. I also visited the corrugated iron house in which the materials for the house for the District Commissioner of the Volta District were stored on its importation some six years ago, and found that portion of the timber which had been left on the coast to be in good condition. The portions which had been removed to Odumassie by Commander Rumsey for the erection of the house there are reported by the Surveyor General, who I ordered to inspect

them, to be eaten away by white ants and useless. I propose to utilise the sound portion, when it can be ascertained how much is wanting, to put up the house somewhere else, at Akuse probably, where the Government is now renting premises at a cost of 96*l.* per annum for Government buildings. In the afternoon I proceeded to Big Addah with the District Commissioner, the Auditor, the Chief Medical Officer, the Surveyor General, my Private Secretary, and Mr. Hull, where I was very loyally received. I walked through the town, which is a large native village of some 7,000 inhabitants and at which the only Government official is an examining officer of Customs. At its southern end on the river are the ruins of an old Danish Fort, of which the bare walls are all that now remain. My initials were engraved at the wish of the people on a part of the western wall, where I was informed that my lamented predecessor and friend, the last Governor who had visited the town, the late Sir George Strahan, had done the same.

6. On the morning of the next day, the 23rd instant, I went over the road by hammock from Addah on the beach to Big Addah, which the people are anxious should be opened, myself with Dr. Cole, Mr. Hull, and the District Commissioner, Mr. Bennett. It is only about four miles in distance as the crow flies, but took me an hour and forty minutes to pass, including the time absorbed by crossing the Fitoi Creek; over the Lowe Creek there is at the present time an unsafe native bridge. The people of Big Addah were much gratified at seeing me again, and seemed to realise that some interest was being taken by the Executive in their affairs. In the afternoon I went up with the District Commissioner and Mr. Hull in the pinnace and inspected the town of Aggravie, which was in a cleanly condition.

7. The first tornado rains of the season had fallen on the 22nd instant, on the evening of which day I went to Big Addah, and, as a consequence, the next day the District Commissioner and certain of the officers were affected in their health in different ways, and I was unable to thoroughly inspect the main creeks on the left bank of the Volta, which it had otherwise been my intention to do on the 24th instant, and I therefore rested on that day, which restored their energies.

8. At 7 a.m., on the 25th instant, I embarked on the Government launch and proceeded to Akuse, which was reached after a fatiguing journey at 11.45 p.m. The launch broke down several times, or I should have arrived about 6 p.m. She could, moreover, only get up as far as Asuchari on account of the shallowness of the river, the rest of the journey being made in an open surf boat. I understand that it is the intention of Messrs. Swanzy to use a launch of lighter draught between Akuse and Asuchari than those which run to the latter place. There are now no less than seven small steam craft, including the Government launch, plying on the lower part of the Volta river. The trade of Addah is increasing, it being a very remunerative station from a fiscal point of view. Government buildings such as those recently completed

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at Salt Pond are much wanted there and should be erected as soon as the financial position of the Colony makes this possible. At present the Government is paying 140*l.* a year for the rent of the District Commissioner's quarters and offices and 40*l.* for rent allowance to the medical officer. The oil of the dense palm forests of Eastern and Western Croboe finds its way largely to Addah *viâ* Akuse and the Volta. A steamer chartered by Messrs. Swanzy, the "Cambrian," was lately at Addah, but I understood that, although her master took soundings on the bar, there was not sufficient depth of water to enable her to cross.

9. I may perhaps explain in conclusion that the name Addah, may be held to include four different places, viz., "Big Addah," a large native town, with some 7,000 souls, about six miles from the mouth on the right bank of the Volta; "Addah Foah," or Little Addah, some four miles lower down the stream on the same bank; "Addah Riverside" a few houses situated a little further down the river than "Addah Foah," where the Basel Mission School and the wharves of the Basel Mission Factory, Messrs. Swanzy, Ocansey, and the Government are situated; and "Addah on the beach," about a mile from "Addah Riverside" and "Addah Foah." The population of the last three places may be taken as 3,000. The Government offices and institutions are at Addah on the beach.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 3.

Sir B. GRIFFITH (Gold Coast) to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR, Aburi House, March 2, 1888.

In continuation of my Despatch dated at Akuse, River Volta, on the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I spent that day, which was Sunday, at Akuse, and inspected the premises used for quarters for the District Commissioner, the Deputy Registrar, the Customs officer, the gaoler and the police, and likewise the lock-up.

2. I was not satisfied with the condition of the station. The auditor inspected the accounts of the station and will report to me further in respect of them. The station has suffered no doubt from the frequent absence on special duty during the past 12 months of the Commissioner, Mr. Williams, an excellent officer, and I do not see that any blame attaches to him. He is at present at Salagha, and Mr. Bennett, the District Commissioner at Addah, is in charge of the district in addition to that of Addah. During his absence from Addah, Dr. Cole, the Assistant Colonial Surgeon,

efficiently discharges the duties of the District Commissioner of the Addah district. In the past, it has often been impossible to find an officer to take charge of the Volta river district. It is, however, rising in importance, and I have great satisfaction in the selection by you of Mr. Williams as a District Commissioner, as he knows more of the people of this part of the country and the district itself than any other officer now in the Colony.

3. The Basel Mission have a station and factory at Akuse, and the firms of Messrs. Swanzy, Ocansey, and Chevalier also have factories. I received much attention from the employés of Messrs. Swanzy, and was very loyally received by the people of the neighbourhood. No complaints were made to me of any kind. Akuse is in the medical district of Addah, and is visited periodically by Dr. Cole.

4. In the early morning of Monday, the 27th ultimo, I started in a canoe for Pong, accompanied by Mr. Birt, the agent of Messrs. Swanzy, the Surveyor General, and Mr. Hull. I was anxious to inspect the first rapids which occur between Akuse and Pong, with a view to enabling the Surveyor General to consider whether it was possible to clear a straight passage through the rocks to Pong in order to facilitate the local river traffic, and also to satisfy myself on the point. The result has proved to both the Surveyor General and myself that no such action is possible, save at an outlay far beyond the existing resources of the Colony and incommensurate with the present amount of the trade of the river. The situation is one of a river about half a mile broad, with banks some 40 feet high, over which the stream rises as a rule in the rainy season. In the dry season it subsides, leaving a vast field of rocky islands, on some of which trees grow to a height of 70 or 80 feet from the bed; the greater portion of them, however, rise only to an average height of some 6 feet, in the channels between which the water rushes with a current of six or seven miles an hour, and the passages, which are only navigable for canoes propelled by poles, wind from one side to the other. These rapids extend for some four miles; it took us two hours and twenty-three minutes of incessant work to reach Pong. Through them, palm oil and other products are brought for shipment in large quantities from Akuse down to Addah. When the stream is deeper the transit is very dangerous. Between the rock the water collects in large pools from which the current above referred to proceeds. It is a great misfortune that the value of this magnificent waterway should be diminished by the drawbacks of a bad bar at the mouth, the sandbank at Duffo, and the rapids below and above Pong. I did not visit the latter as they were described to me as similar to those through which I had already passed.

5. Pong is the point from which the traffic down the Volta from the interior diverges, on the one hand through Croboe and Aquapim to Accra, on the other to Addah and Quittah. It is a large native town with a floating population and not in a too cleanly condition. An examining officer of Customs is the only official stationed there.

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The Chief Odonkor, now absent with the recruiting expedition at Salag a, is under the rule of Sackity, King of Eastern Croboe. I, however, saw the other headmen, who welcomed me here, as elsewhere, with the utmost loyalty, and found that they had no representations to make beyond a question of the exact place where the local Customs officer should be stationed on the riverside.

6. In the afternoon I proceeded to Odumassie, the capital of Eastern Croboe, about three hours distant from Pong, where I was received in great state by King Sackity, wearing the silver chain presented to him by Her Majesty's Government after the Ashanti campaign of 1873–74, and having the sword also then given to him borne beside him. My reception was all the more cordial no doubt from the fact that no Governor has found himself in a position to visit this part of the country since the progress made through it in the year 1874 by the late Sir George Strahan.

7. Early next morning, the 20th ultimo, I held a palaver in the court of the King's house, and impressed upon him, his Chiefs, and his women the benefits which would result to them and the Colony from the cultivation of cotton and coffee, the keeping of their roads clear for trade, and the advantages which they derived from the presence of the Basel missionaries amongst them. They had no complaints to make, and the King merely asked for a lamp and some handcuffs to assist in enforcing the powers with which he is clothed under the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance. He promised to attend to my words. While I was at Odumassie I and my party obtained accommodation at the Basel Mission station, a fine large house. The Mission have also a large church here.

8. I left Odumassie for Akropong at 12 noon, reaching Sra, the capital of Western Croboe, in about two hours time. King Akrobato came out to meet me, and I spent two hours with him in conversation, and the interchange of the usual formulæ required by native etiquette. He had no complaints to make, like Sackity he asked for a lamp and handcuffs, and he promised to carry out my wishes for the establishment of the cultivation of cotton. Both Sackity and he are powerful native Chiefs, well disposed, and loyal to Her Majesty's Government in the Colony. I arrived at Akropong, the capital of Aquapim, about 6.30 p.m.

9. Here Quamin Fori, the King, came out to meet me with the most imposing native ceremonial which I have witnessed on my present tour. I slept in a substantial house, the property of the King, which he maintains for occupation by visitors, and I attended a public palaver about 9 o'clock on Wednesday, 29th ultimo, the next morning, under a large tree, which formed the background of the open space in front of my quarters. From 6 a.m. to the time of the palaver, fresh Chiefs of the King kept arriving from the adjacent villages and paraded on this space, firing guns and shouting in honour of the Queen's representative. At the palaver I expatiated as usual upon cotton and cocoa cultivation. I assured the King and people of the interest which Her Most Gracious Majesty is pleased to take in this part of Her dominions; and, in reply to my inquiries, the King informed me

that the cocoa plants which I had sent up to him after my visit to the place in the year 1885 had failed. He and his Chiefs asked what action they were to take to recover debts owed to them, and I referred them to the courts of law, in which they admitted that they could rely upon the evenness with which the law was administered. They further asked me if I could instruct the merchants of Addah to pay in cash instead of in gin for palm oil, in answer to which I explained to them that I could not interfere with the course of trade, that the matter was one between the buyer and the seller, and that they had the remedy in their own hands. After the palaver I went over the extensive station of the Basel Mission, whose representatives had given me a hearty welcome, and I left for this place in the afternoon.

10. I was glad to find the main road from Pong to Aburi, which is a principal artery of the trade of Accra, in as satisfactory a condition as could be expected. It is broad and clear.

11. At Aburi, which has mountain slopes of southern aspect and a fertile soil admirably suited for coffee and cocoa, the former of which is already cultivated to some extent, owing to the example of the members of the Basel Mission stationed there, I also emphasized the advantages of agriculture to the Africans of the place, and endeavoured specially to stimulate the local native sluggishness, in which some leaven of industry has begun to show itself. I had already ordered a space of about three acres to be cleared of bush with a view to the commencement of a concentration of the expenditure upon gardens at out stations on the cultivation of a model farm, as well as with the view of improving the sanitary surroundings of this house, and I am hopeful that I may see my way at no distant date to placing before you a definite scheme on the subject.

12. I remain here until to-morrow, the 3rd instant, when I shall return to Accra, after an absence of 19 days from head-quarters. Complete harmony has, I am happy to be able to report, existed between myself and the officers who have accompanied me, who have both enjoyed their travelling and profited thereby in health as well as in experience. I shall derive great advantage myself in the future transaction of the business of the Colony from the knowledge which I have gained by visiting the country and obtaining a personal acquaintance with the stations, the officials and their wants, and the several native Chiefs. Over the latter, I expect, now that I know them and they know me, to have a far greater hold than previously, as I have every reason to believe that I have fortunately been able to enlist their liking, and I hear on all sides that they have been very pleased that the Governor has at length come among them. I have also heard that my visit is likely to tend to increase the security of the roads, as the natives will argue that where the Governor has once passed there must necessarily also be full security to themselves in travelling, and the prevalent timidity of the natives of the interior in leaving their homes is too well known for me to refer here further to it.

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13. It is my intention to continue my inspection in the western portion of the Colony as soon as I have been able to dispose of certain legislative business and the arrearage which will have accumulated during my absence at Accra, as I am anxious to have as full a knowledge as I can acquire of the relative wants of the different districts before the rainy season sets in and the questions involved in the framing of the Estimates for the year 1889 come under consideration. During my absence the routine administration has been in charge of the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Hughes, and the introduction and consideration of certain Bills have been before the Legislative Council, which will be completed on my return. At Akropong and this place I have received your Despatches which left England on the 28th January and 4th February.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 4.

LORD KNUTSFORD to Sir B. GRIFFITH (Gold Coast).

SIR, Downing Street, April 17, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches containing an account of your recent tour through the eastern districts of the Gold Coast Colony.

I have read these Despatches with interest and satisfaction, and I have to express my approval of your proceedings.

In compliance with your request I have caused an expression of your thanks to be conveyed to Captain Annesley through the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.

Sir W. B. Griffith. (Signed) KNUTSFORD.

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No. 12.

GOLD COAST.

SANITARY AND MEDICAL REPORTS

FOR 1886 AND 1887.

(With Meteorological Charts.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
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1888.

[C.—5249.-9.]

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No. 12.

GOLD COAST.

SANITARY AND MEDICAL REPORTS.

[For previous Reports see, [C.—5071.] June 1887.]

No. 1.

Governor Sir W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle,
Accra, April 11, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the Sanitary Report of the Accra Station for the year ending 31st December 1886, which has been prepared by Dr. Easmon. I have only just received it, but from a hurried perusal it appears to be generally satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

SANITARY REPORT, ACCRA STATION, for the year ending 31st December 1886, by Dr. J. FARRELL EASMON.

There has been a decided improvement in the sanitary condition of Accra during the year 1886. The important subjects of the water supply for the masses, the removal of excreta, cemeteries, and the abolition of the pigs nuisance, have each in turn received the attention of the Government.

As regards water supply, in addition to the Government tanks in connexion with the new secretariat now completed, and others referred to in Doctor McCarthy's last report for the quarter ending 30th September 1886, the public reservoir is nearly completed, and I may add that on the occasion of the last heavy rainfall, February 16th, 1887, a fall of 2 · 70 inches was registered at the observatory at the hospital. The reservoir, which is 100 yards square, and had been dug to the depth of from 15 to 10 feet, was nearly half full. During the last quarter of the year, as for some time before it, water for the use of Government officials, constabulary, and prisoners was brought in from Beulah. Rain

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GOLD COAST.

water has been the main source of water supply in Accra hitherto. But the experience of recent years has taught us that this is not a dependable source. Alive to this fact, the Surveyor-General had been instructed to make a survey of the River Secoom and its tributaries, the Hoomoo and Insackey, to their sources in the Aburi-Akropong range of hills, with a view to some practical measures being submitted for bringing water into the town by means of pipes.

The Public Works Department have, however, had their hands so full during the year that the Surveyor-General was not able to undertake the mission until February of the current year. The result has not been officially detailed, but I understand that the most practical method which has presented itself to the Surveyor-General is the pumping of water from the Secoom at or about the village of Beulah up to the first range of hills, from whence an unlimited supply may be conducted by gravity through pipes into the town.

The prospect thus opened up of a continuous and abundant water supply for Accra is full of interest, as well from a hygienic as from a socio-economic point of view.

Dr. McCarthy, Chief Medical Officer, has rightly insisted upon the unhealthiness of Accra being mainly due to the numerous undrained valleys which surround it. Now these valleys are at certain seasons of the year flooded with collections of rain water, and, at other times, they are desiccated by the parching heat of the sun. Hence throughout the year successful cultivation of them is rendered impossible.

Introduce, however, a continuous water supply and the possibility of successfully cultivating these areas for at least nine months of the year becomes established, and as regards the remaining quarter private enterprise will soon find it sufficiently remunerative to make the attempt to successfully drain them worthy of its consideration. All this waste land around Accra is at present practically valueless. Make them arable by the means suggested above, and at once the whole aspect of the country and the value of landed property will become agreeably modified.

It is generally admitted that the use of fresh vegetables is necessary in tropical climates. In order that the officers might be supplied with these desirable articles of food, the Government, on the recommendation of the present Governor, have established Government gardens here and elsewhere on the coast for the benefit of the officers at the several stations.

During the year, however, very little indeed has been obtained from the Christiansborg garden in consequence of the uncertain rainfall and the scarcity of water. Two reservoirs, for the purpose of supplying this garden, have been built, and we look forward to a successful year of cultivation.

Referring to the subject of planting of trees, and their influence upon the rainfall, I have caused a large quantity of seeds and cuttings to be planted in a temporary nursery in the Christiansborg garden. As soon as they are fit for transplanting, it is intended to put them all over the town.

Removal of Excreta.

In addition to other latrines referred to by Doctor McCarthy in his report, the erection of one large latrine for females was begun in the last quarter of the year, and had not been completed at the end of the year. It promises by its size and convenient situation to prove the most useful of all hitherto erected. It is gratifying to note that the natives appreciate the benefits of these latrines, and are using them accordingly.

Cemeteries.

In consequence of the condition of the Public Works Department already referred to, nothing has been done in the matter of the new cemetery. Experimental borings have been made on the spot selected, but nothing more. Intramural sepulture of the dead continues. The cemetery used for prisoners, hospital patients, and paupers generally, situated at the back of the hospital, has been closed in consequence of its proximity to the public reservoir.

The Pig Nuisance.

Political considerations have always influenced the Government in their dealings with the people. To abolish by one stroke of the pen, in accordance with the "Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance" and the "Pigs Ordinance," this source of nuisance would seem an easy matter, but in deference to the feelings of the inhabitants, the provisions of these Ordinances have been suspended in this particular, and the Government have decided to erect public piggeries in the outskirts of the town for the benefit of the people.

A committee, consisting of the Honourable G. F. Cleland, Head Chief of James Town, the Surveyor-General, and myself, selected sites for the purpose. For reasons already detailed, I regret to add that the Public Works Department have been unable to take any further action in the matter. The eradication of the cactus forest proceeds slowly, but satisfactorily. The cactus, as is well known, dies hard; and there is only one way of getting rid of it, viz., by digging it up and burying it.

General Health.

The health of the European officials during the last quarter of the year was unsatisfactory. One death resulted from hæmorrhagic malarial fever.

Among the unofficial European population health during the last quarter of the year was fairly good. One death occurred from hæmorrhagic malarial fever in the case of a Venetian coral seller.

The health of the native population during October and November was fairly good, but in December, in consequence of the severity of the Harmattan, numerous deaths occurred from broncho-pneumonia, dysentery, and fevers.

As regards quarters for Government officers, the new secretariat fast approaches completion, and promises by its well appointed sanitary and other arrangements to prove one of the finest buildings on the West Coast of Africa, and certainly the finest on the Gold Coast. It will no doubt be remembered that the secretariat at Christiansborg was condemned by me about three years ago for sanitary reasons referred to in my special report at the time.

Contrasting the sanitary condition of Accra at the present time with that which pertained four years ago when I made my first official sanitary inspection of the town, I am glad to note that there have been improvements of a definitely beneficial character.

What now is required is the carrying out by the Public Works Department of suggestions emanating from this Department, and already approved of by the Governor; and last, but by no means least of all, the opening up of streets in the overcrowded town of Accra, whereby some fresh air, I refer specially to the sea breezes, might be permitted to ventilate the town.

I attach statistical return of sick among the employeés of the Government. These, as regards the constabulary and native clerks and others, are satisfactory, but are practically valueless as regards the European officers, representing neither the correct proportion of sick nor the duration of illness, but simply the periods when such officers had been on the sick list.

The total average daily number of natives in the Government service in Accra, Elmina, and Quittah was 708·71, and the average daily number of sick 25·17 or 3·55 per cent.; and the daily per-centage of sick was—

In Accra	-	- 2·6 per cent.
In Quittah	-	- 3·4 „
And in Elmina	-	- 4·5 „

It is worthy of note that among the natives generally the percentage of sick was greatest among the Fantis. The principal disease from which men of the Gold Coast Constabulary suffered was guinea-worm, contracted from drinking foul water when in the towns.

Meteorological Report

The total rainfall from February to December was 22 73 inches, viz., in—

February	1·55
March	6·83
April	4·40
May	2·92
June	2·40
July	·28
August	Nil.
September	2·00
October	1·09
November	·96
December	·30

The scarcity of water arising from this small and uncertain amount of rainfall was a source of much inconvenience to the general public, and of expense to the Government. Although the rainfall was so small in Accra, still in the Aburi-Akropong range of hills, at varying distances of from 15 to 40 miles from Accra, there was an abundant fall of rain throughout the year.

From a consideration of the meteorological charts appended it will be seen—

i. That the mean average maximum shade temperature varied between 82° F. and 87° F.

ii. The highest shade maximum temperature on any one day was 91° F., and the lowest 80° F.

iii. The mean monthly average minimum shade temperature varied between 71° F. and 78° F.

iv. The highest minimum shade temperature on any one day was 85° F., and the lowest 65° F.

v. The mean average solar maximum temperature ranged between 140° F. and 155° F.

vi. The highest reading of the solar maximum thermometer on any one day was 164° F., and the lowest 132° F.

vii. The mean average terrestrial minimum temperature varied between 60° F. and 70° F.

viii. The highest reading on any one day was 82° F., and the lowest 54° F.

GOLD COAST.

ix. The average relative humidity ranged between 67 in June and 87 in September, but the daily oscillations were most marked.

x. The average daily range of temperature varied from 12° in February to 16° in December, being greatest in the two last months of the year.

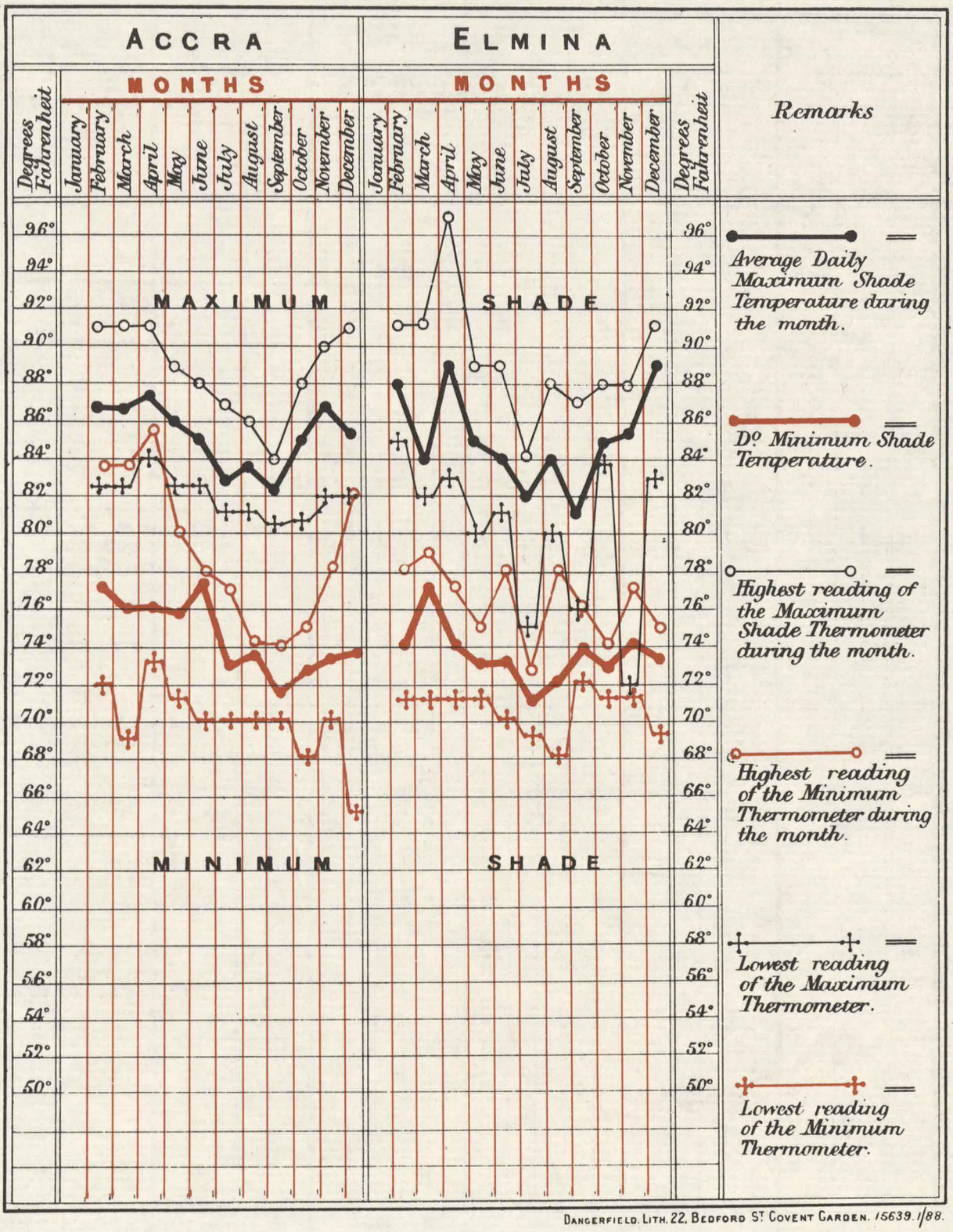
From a comparison of the thermometric records of Elmina and Accra, Chart I., it will be seen that both the monthly variation and monthly oscillation of temperature were greater throughout the year at the former than at the latter station.

As this is the first year that meteorological observations have been properly registered at this station, I have not thought it necessary to do more than record the facts as observed.

(Signed) J FARRELL EASMON, M.D., &c.,
Acting Chief Medical Officer.

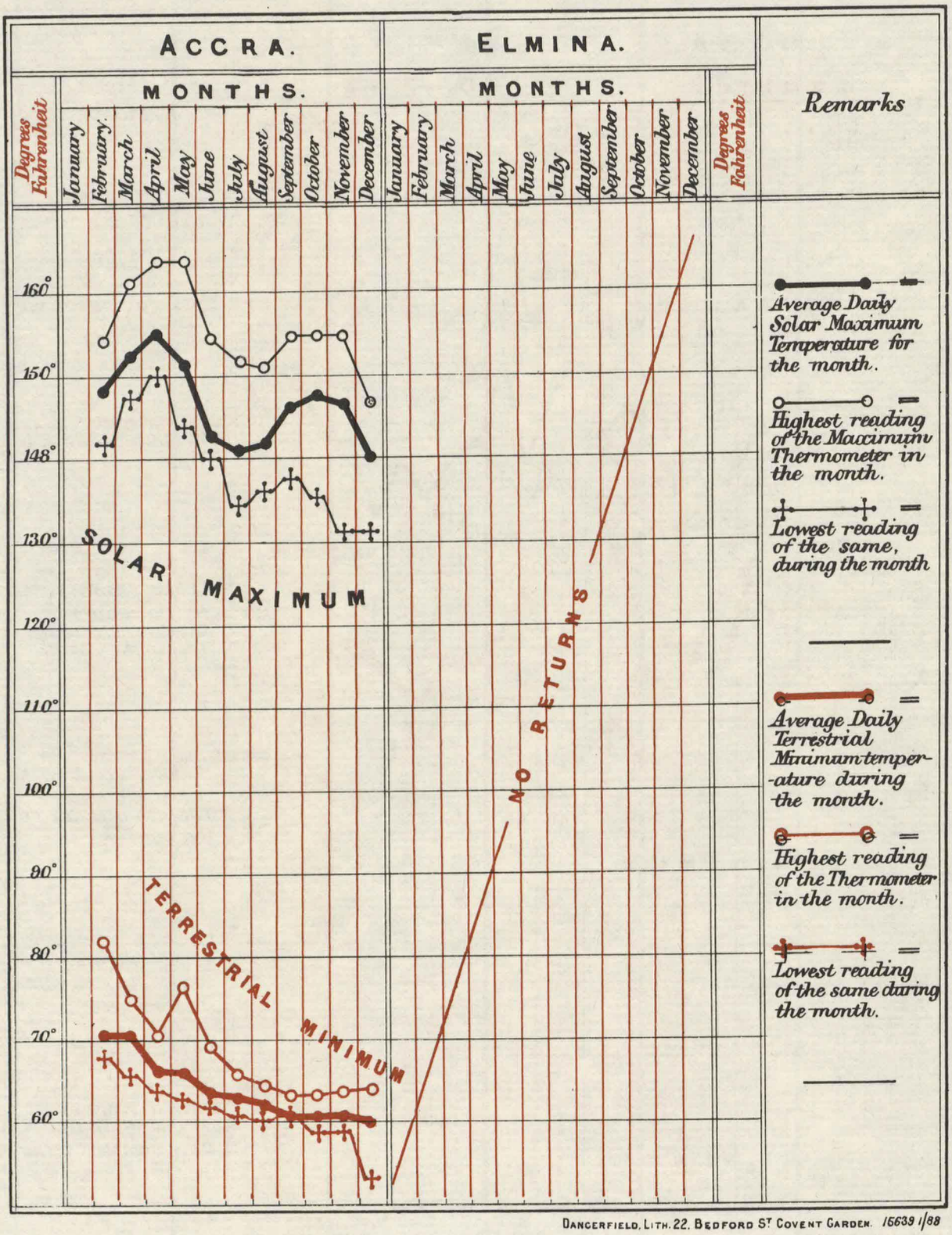
Accra, March 29, 1887.

CHART I.



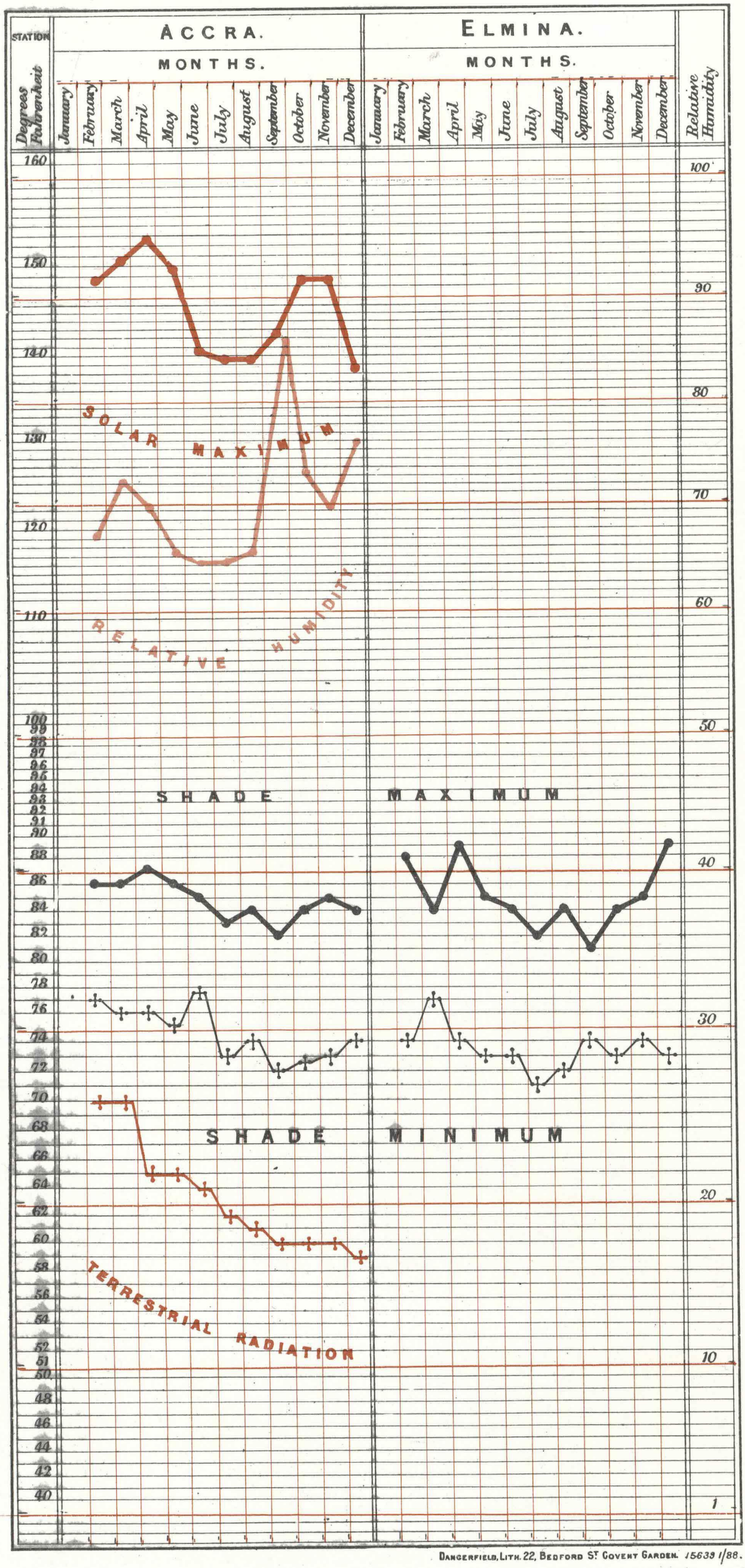
DANGERFIELD. LITH. 22, BEDFORD ST COVENT GARDEN. 15639. 1/88.

CHART II.



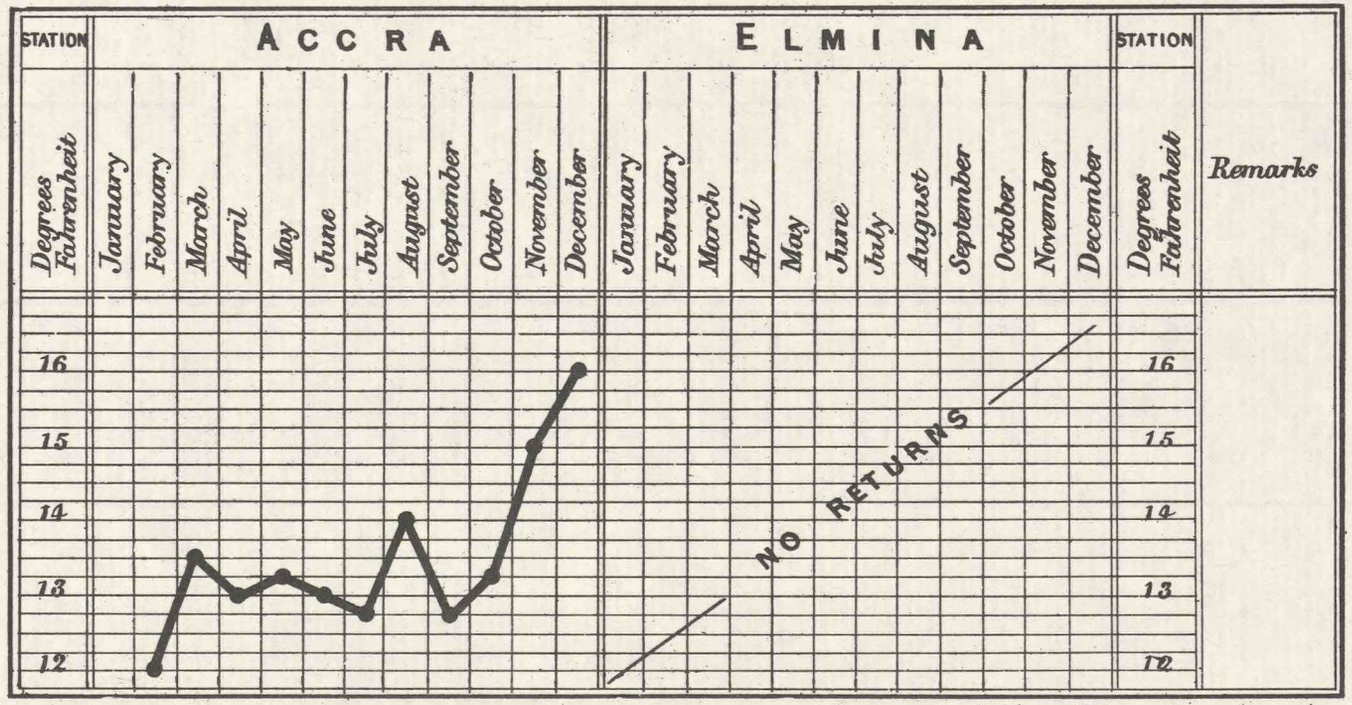
DANGERFIELD, LITH. 22, BEDFORD ST COVENT GARDEN. 15639 1/88

CHART III.



DANGERFIELD, LITH. 22, BEDFORD ST. COVENT GARDEN. 15639 1/88.

CHART IV.



DANGERFIELD, LITH. 22, BEDFORD ST COVENT GARDEN. 15639. 1/88.

STATISTICAL RETURN OF SICK AMONG THE EMPLOYÉS OF THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE YEAR 1886.

GOLD COAST.

STATISTICAL RETURN OF SICK AMONG THE EMPLOYÉS OF THE GOVERNMENT DURING THE YEAR 1886.

STATION.	ACCRA.								
	European.		Clerks and others.		Houssas.		Fanti Police.		Remarks.
MONTHS.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	
January - -	19·00	1·45	109·00	2·54	124·41	5·16	57·38	2·58	
February - -	19·00	1·39	109·00	3·39	87·78	3·07	54·00	3·07	
March - -	20·16	1·00	99·35	2·06	95·29	5·09	67·41	2·12	
April - -	22·70	·26	110·30	1·60	96·30	6·40	54·00	3·23	
May - - -	22·16	2·96	110·00	1·58	96·00	2·51	54·00	1·41	
June - -	24·00	·53	110·00	1·13	106·76	1·56	54·26	1·56	
July - - -	24·00	1·61	110·00	·48	135·78	3·77	63·87	·80	
August - -	17·03	1·54	111·00	·83	134·00	3·29	66·00	1·58	
September - -	24·00	·30	111·00	1·76	120·23	4·36	66·00	1·60	
October - -	29·35	·29	111·00	1·09	111·87	3·00	85·25	4·16	
November - -	20·13	1·13	121·71	2·06	109·46	3·56	84·35	1·80	
December - -	17·00	1·61	123·00	2·61	119·80	1·61	82·58	4·00	
For the year -	21·34	1·17	111·28	1·76	111·47	3·61	65·75	2·32	

STATION.	ELMINA.								
	European.		Clerks and others.		Houssas.		Fanti Police.		Remarks.
MONTHS.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	
January - -	5·51	·45	34·00	·67	166·96	8·74	64·54	3·54	
February - -	6·85	·35	34·00	1·00	154·10	9·75	69·85	3·00	
March -	5·67	·83	34·00	1·93	118·29	8·19	73·41	4·32	
April - -	4·41	·48	34·00	1·06	141·48	9·67	51·41	2·19	
May - - -	7·30	·40	34·00	·63	136·47	6·10	73·20	4·63	
June - -	4·70	·70	34·00	·90	153·90	8·50	92·56	5·06	
July - - -	5·45	·00	34·00	·80	134·93	8·74	82·16	2·38	
August - -	7·22	1·35	33·00	·93	152·55	7·00	81·42	3·32	
September - -	7·23	·66	33·00	1·01	168·36	4·26	36·73	4·40	
October - -	7·00	·09	34·00	1·54	175·03	4·70	61·29	4·51	
November - -	6·16	·36	34·00	1·43	179·43	4·96	70·36	2·83	
December - -	7·87	·00	34·00	1·22	154·22	5·22	70·13	2·22	
For the year -	6·28	·43	33·83	1·08	152·97	7·15	68·92	3·53	

STATISTICAL RETURN—*continued.*

STATION.	CAPE COAST.								
	European.		Clerks and others.		Houssas.		Fanti Police.		
MONTHS.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Remarks.
January - -	3·74	·00	46·54	·09	·00	·00	29·64	·67	
February - -	2·89	·00	45·89	·10	·00	·00	32·07	·42	
March - -	2·00	·09	45·38	·00	·00	·00	35·90	1·42	
April - -	1·46	·00	45·00	·80	·00	·00	39·09	1·86	
May - - -	1·09	·00	45·00	·51	·00	·00	36·58	2·16	
June - -	1·50	·00	46·00	·46	·00	·00	37·76	1·60	
July - - -	1·00	·00	47·00	·16	·00	·00	38·19	·48	
August - -	1·16	·00	47·00	·00	·00	·00	36·64	1·38	
September - -	1·60	·00	47·00	·00	·00	·00	35·66	1·53	
October - -	1·00	·00	47·00	·00	·00	·00	37·03	1·70	
November - -	1·00	·00	47·00	·00	·00	·00	37·13	·80	
December - -	1·00	·00	43·09	·00	·93	·00	35·83	·51	
For the year -	1·62	·007	46·21	·17	·7	·00	35·96	1·21	

STATION.	QUITTAH.								
	European.		Clerks and others.		Houssas.		Fanti Police.		
MONTHS.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Remarks.
January - -	2·51	·00	25·17	·06	170·12	8·90	16·00	1·45	
February - -	3·50	·00	22·50	·00	151·57	8·68	16·00	4·28	
March - -	3·09	·00	22·93	·03	124·38	3·77	16·06	·00	
April - -	3·00	·66	22·73	·16	115·00	3·63	16.00	·30	
May - - -	3·32	·58	23·00	·32	114·74	4·00	13·48	·90	
June - -	3·00	·33	23·00	·00	123·00	4·63	31·00	1·06	
July - - -	4·00	·00	23·00	·09	115·90	4·51	13·96	·32	
August - -	3·12	·00	15·57	·00	116·80	2·77	14·00	·66	
September - -	3·00	·00	23·46	·00	120·00	4·80	14·00	·90	
October - -	3·32	·00	23·00	·00	120·54	4·35	14·00	·74	
November - -	3·00	·00	23·00	·51	118·00	·00	14·00	1·00	
December - -	3·70	·00	23·00	·86	121·00	4·13	14·00	1·06	
For the year -	3·21	·31	22·53	·16	125·92	4·51	16·04	1·05	

No. 2.

The ACTING GOVERNOR to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

O'Connor's Hill, Cape Coast Castle,
June 30, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of the reports of the medical officers at the Accra, Quittah, and Axim stations for the quarter ended 31st March 1887; I will furnish those for the other medical stations at an early date.

2. The reports on Accra and Quittah do not call for any observations for me beyond the fact that the latrines at Quittah will be completed as soon as a foreman of works can be detached for service there, and the statement of the opinion of the Chief Medical Officer that the existing accommodation in the hospital at Accra is quite sufficient for present wants as regards the more serious cases needing indoor treatment.

3. Dr. Eyles' report on Axim is interesting, and I trust that his suggestions as to the pathology of the diseases to which beasts of burden are subject at many places on the coast may lead to a closer and more scientific investigation of the causes of those diseases than, so far as I am aware, has yet been bestowed upon them. I should be glad if you would be good enough to cause me to be furnished with a copy of a report on mule disease by Drs. Piggott and Sealy, sent home from Barbadoes, I believe, in the year 1873 or 1874, which may possibly prove useful in the diagnosis of the loin disease from which horses and mules suffer here.

4. I have instructed the Surveyor-General to consider whether the rivulet now affording part of the water supply cannot be dammed so as to improve it further by the formation of a reservoir, as well as to see what can be done for cleansing the tank, and, if necessary, furnishing an estimate for the iron one, erection of which is recommended. I have also instructed the District Commissioner to see that the trenches are kept clear. A vote for the construction of four latrines at the station has already been taken. The Inspector-General has been furnished with an extract of that part of the report which alludes to the insanitary habits of the Houssa and Fanti police. I have caused the remarks of Dr. Eyles respecting the non-application of section 20 of the Public Health Ordinance, No. 10, of 1878, to be communicated to the District Commissioner, with a view to bringing section 28, if necessary, into operation.

5. I have also instructed the Chief Medical Officer to take the question of the improvement in hospital accommodation into consideration, with a view to procuring the necessary plans and estimates. GOLD COAST.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. B. P. WHITE, Colonel,
Administrator.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

SANITARY REPORT, ACCRA STATION, QUARTER ENDING 31ST MARCH 1887.

THIS period has proved a very fatal one to the native inhabitants in consequence of the severity of the Harmattan season, already dealt with in my special report of the 21st ultimo. This increased mortality ceased as abruptly as its cause.

Two deaths occurred among the resident European population, one in a young German who had but recently arrived in the Colony, and who was, from the peculiarly excited state of his nervous system, wholly unfit for residence in this climate, the other in an Englishman, from cerebral hæmorrhage.

One American died also, from disease contracted in Addah. He landed here in a moribund condition.

The general health of the Europeans was on the whole fairly good.

The rainfall during the quarter amounted to 6·48, of which 2·70 was the product of one thunderstorm on the 16th February. The pressing need for water for the native population has been accordingly met to a great extent.

The beach latrine for females, referred to in my last report as in course of construction, is almost completed, and will shortly be open to the public.

The Christiansborg main road is being repaired and embanked.

The work in connexion with the cactus forest progresses satisfactorily.

One important event begun in the quarter, the influence of which must prove beneficial to the general well-being of the inhabitants, is the erection of a race course at New Site.

The following numbers and classes of patients were treated during the quarter at the New Site Hospital :—

In-patients, admission - -	121
Out-patients, new cases - -	2,196
„ attendances - -	7,060

Gold Coast.

and it is satisfactory to note that during the great prevalence of sickness amongst the natives in the early part of the year the advantages of the hospital were largely participated in by them. On several occasions both Dr. Heron and myself were compelled to refuse admission to male patients in consequence of want of accommodation.

(Signed) J. Farrell Easmon, M.D.,
Acting Chief Medical Officer.

Sanitary Report, Quittah, for Quarter ending 31st March 1887.

Sir, The Fort, Quittah, April 1, 1887.

I herewith send you a few remarks on the sanitary condition of this district.

The public latrines in this town are still uncompleted; no pans have yet been received or any information concerning them, consequently I have concluded that the matter has been forgotten. The general sanitary condition of this town and district, as far as I am able to learn, has not undergone any change for at least 10 years.

(Signed) S. A. Metherell, M.D.,
The Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Colonial Surgeon.
New Site, Accra.

Sanitary Report on the Station of Axim for the Quarter ending 31st March 1887.

This report is submitted, not because I have anything special to say relative to the sanitary state of this place, but rather because I have been called upon to furnish it. In submitting similar reports for other stations I have uniformly prefaced my remarks by saying that a report is impossible, for there is nothing to report upon; and I need only to repeat the same here, and I feel bound to lay greater emphasis on it, because it would seem that these documents have to be submitted quarterly, for once a medical officer has entered fully into these questions, and made his recommendations for the sanitary improvement of towns whose distinguishing characteristic is the total absence of all

sanitary works and measures, it becomes almost impossible for him to say more; and reports under these circumstances at such short intervals will be to the medical officer mere linguistic riddles, and an exercise of his ingenuity to express the same facts and ideas four times every year in different verbal sequences. Of course it would be altogether different if there existed the two essential groups of data for such reports (*a*) sanitary works and measures, either established or in progress, and (*b*) vital statistics; but both of these are conspicuously absent in a climate which from time immemorial has been overshadowed with the curse of a bad name.

2. *The Town of Axim*, situated in a bay of the same name, is divided into an upper town on some rising ground to the north, and a lower town on a plain to the south, between them being fort St. Anthony and the parade ground. On its landward side the town is closely environed with forest. The great majority of the houses are bamboo and thatch-built huts; the petty traders and better class of native live in swish-built houses; but there are some half dozen houses which have been built of more pretentious material, and these belong to trading firms or mining companies. There is only one good street, situated in the lower town; the others are mere lanes and spaces between houses; but on the whole they are wider and better kept than in corresponding localities of Accra, Cape Coast, and Elmina.

3. *The Occupations of the Natives* may be summed up in a few words: they have none; a few are in the employ of the trading firms as boatmen and general labourers; there are two unconnected carpenters in the town; occasionally a few fishing boats go out, but these belong chiefly to a colony of Elminas who have established themselves in the vicinity of the lower town; the women are petty traders; the men are idlers, doing "odd jobs" occasionally when they have some definite object in view, such as the purchase of a wife. The trade done here is by "cash sales," *i.e.*, where coin or gold dust is given in exchange for goods. The produce of the country is obtained at out stations on the Appolonian coast and sent here for shipment. This total absence of all manufacturing and other industrial operations is so far an advantage, that it gives rise to but little refuse. One would fancy that the sharp division of a town into two parts would give rise to some amount of healthy emulation, but here it is not so. There is a rivalry, but it is the rivalry of the nursery. Each of the two divisions of the town purchased the instruments for a drum and fife band; the lower town purchased bugles also, but gave mortal offence to the upper town for no other reason than that they blew their own trumpets, and the affair very nearly ended in a riot.

4. *The food supply* is much the same as that in other stations. There are no horned cattle, and but few sheep kept here; the pig is happily a stranger; of poultry the common fowl and a few

GOLD COAST.

ducks are the only representatives; fish abound in the bay, but there are few fishermen, and they ply their calling very irregularly; and the price is prohibitive, for since the Fanti cares not for work, he cures the fish he takes and sends it into the interior to be disposed of by his women for profitable, more accurately enormous, prices, thus virtually cutting off so wholesome and abundant a food supply as fish; at some future time, perhaps, when sanitary measures will have prolonged the Fanti's lease of life and brought with it the concomitant of increased population, the struggle for existence will become more severe, and then we might expect that matters will improve in this direction. By way of game, pigeons abound in the neighbouring forest, a small species of deer, a kind of sand-grouse, and the wild pig are procurable. Kassâva is cultivated to a very limited extent; the yam grows here, but is not cultivated, the little that is used by the people being brought from Cape Coast; maize is plentiful and is brought from the "bush." This part of the coast is, I am told, spoken of as the "paradise of plantains;" the article is abundant and incredibly cheap, and thus it forms the staple of food with the natives, who beat it up into fŭfŭ, and eat it with nothing more than boiled palm oil, without salt or other condiment. Can it be wondered at that there should be so pronounced a dislike for work and exertion, when the staple articles of food can be got almost for the asking? Mangoes, bananas, oranges, limes, pineapples, and the papâya* are abundant; an attempt has been made to cultivate the alligator pear; the trees are now about three years old, and appear to be healthy, so that the attempt is likely to succeed; the bread-fruit is plentiful, but does not seem to be used by the people. The mango of this place is the nearest approach to the fibreless mango of India that I have met with on the coast, and I would advise its introduction into other stations. Beyond the tomato and the universal and only condiment of West Africa, the capsicum, no vegetables are grown. The cocoanut and the cabbage palm grow wild, but the people are guiltless of using them; occasionally I have observed a few sugar canes, but they are of inferior quality.

5. *The water supply* for Government officials and institutions is derived from a large subterranean tank in the fort, and is practically unlimited in quantity. The tank is single, and so far back as anyone now here can recollect it has not been cleaned; this will in process of time become a serious inconvenience, for there will be no other tank to depend on when this one is emptied for cleaning or repair. I would suggest that an iron tank be placed in the fort.

The natives derive their supply, some of them from the tanks of their employers, and others, the great majority, from two

* Spanish, Aguacate = Aztec, almacatl.

sources, viz., *first*, a rivulet which runs into the town and forms a little lagoon near Swanzy's house; and, *secondly*, from two wells one near the Government garden, and the other in a private house. These wells are badly constructed, as a consequence of which there is an appreciable amount of suspended impurity, otherwise the water is good.

6. *Drainage.*—The natural drainage of the town is good, and the only use there is for drains is to carry away storm water; for this purpose the natural drainage is assisted by simple trenches, which perform their work satisfactorily; hence there is no need to make any recommendation, beyond that these should be kept always in proper repair.

7. *Removal of Refuse.*—As mentioned above, the occupations followed by the people are such as to give rise to but little refuse, and this is of the nature of house refuse, which is burnt, so that practically there is no need for dustbins as in Elmina or Cape Coast.

8. *Latrines.*—However little need there might be to make any recommendations regarding the water supply, drainage, and removal of refuse, there is no town on the Gold Coast, which I have seen, that is so sadly in need of latrines as Axim. The forest and bush grow up to the very verge of the town; indeed parts of the town may be described as being in the forest; and there being no latrines, the full effect of the pernicious clause of the so-called "Public Health" Ordinance which legalised the accumulation of filth and rubbish within 13 feet of habitations is seen, or rather smelled in the outskirts of the town. Under cover of the forest, the environs of the town are made use of for latrine purposes, with the result that one is entirely deprived of what might otherwise be pleasant afternoon walks. The proximity of the bush has one advantage, viz., that no nuisances are committed in town, except by the Fanti police and the Houssas, who no doubt consider that this is a privilege conferred on them to counterbalance the irksomeness of an uniform and discipline.

9. *Health of the Town.*—No means exist for arriving at any conclusion relative to the health of the town. The Colonial Hospital is a small institution consisting of one ward of four beds; one room which is used as a dispensary and office; and another room intended for a mortuary, but which I have been compelled to convert into a store room for surplus stores, in order that the dispensary might be rendered less chaotic; so badly is the place appointed that there is even no latrine attached to it. The natives are not unwilling to seek European medical advice, but there is no accommodation for them, even as out-patients. The verandah, which serves as a waiting room, is too small to accommodate them, so that they have to wait in the street, and there being but one attendant their patience is soon tried. Extra accommodation and an increased staff are much needed, and will materially assist the medical officers in their endeavours to study

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the diseases of the coast; for a properly appointed hospital in this station would attract patients, particularly as the nearest institution of the kind is in Elmina, 80 miles away.

The health of the constabulary has been good. In the following tables I have shown their health statistics, first as a whole and then separately for each branch. I do this, for the Fantis, I have observed, always furnish a large proportion of illness; their ailments for the quarter, however, have not been serious. In the table of in-patients treated in the Colonial Hospital, all the cases came from the constabulary except one, viz., wound of abdomen, which was a "police case." The wound penetrated the abdominal wall, and a portion of the great omentum protruded. This was returned after being cleansed with a solution of corrosive sublimate (one part in 2,000), and under antiseptic treatment the wound healed kindly. The case of urinary disorder was one of haêmaturia, in which I found the ovum of the bilharzia hæmatobium. This is the third case in which I have found the ova on the Gold Coast.

I. *Statistics of Illness. Gold Coast Constabulary.*

Period.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Per-centage Daily Sick.
January 1887 - -	34·71	3·10	8·92
February „ - -	34·96	2·53	7·25
March „ - -	32·77	3·74	11·25
First quarter of 1887 -	34·12	3·14	9·19

II. *Statistics of Illness. Houssas alone.*

Period.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Per centage Daily Sick.
January 1887 - -	24·98	0·37	1·55
February „ - -	24·61	0·00	0·00
March „ - -	23·19	2·45	10·57
First quarter of 1887 -	24·25	0·97	3·57

III. *Statistics of Illness. Fantis alone.*

Period.	Average Daily Strength.	Average Daily Sick.	Per-centage Daily Sick.
January 1887 - -	9·10	2·71	29·79
February „ - -	10·32	2·54	24·57
March „ - -	9·58	1·29	13·47
First quarter of 1887 -	9·65	2·17	22·46

IV. *In-Patients treated in the Colonial Hospital.*

Average daily sick:—

Houssa Constabulary - - -	0·97
Fanti Police - - - -	2·17
Civilians - - - - -	0·27
Total - - -	3·31

Reference to Nomenclature.		Diseases.	Remaining from last Quarter.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining.
I.	—	Intermittent fever - -	—	1	1	—	—
„	—	Syphilis, primary - -	—	1	1	—	—
„	—	Rheumatism, chronic -	—	1	1	—	—
VII.	b.	Diseases of bronchi - -	—	1	1	—	—
XII.	b.	„ urinary - -	—	1	—	—	1
XIII.	a. i.	„ male urethra -	—	2	1.	—	1
IX.	b.	„ lymphatics -	—	1	1	—	—
XVI.	—	„ connect. tiss. -	—	1	1	—	—
XVII.	—	„ skin - -	2	—	2	—	—
XIX.	b. viii.	Injuries to abdomen - -	—	1	1	—	—
„	b. x.	„ lower extremities -	—	3	2	—	1
XXI.	b.	Filaria medinensis - -	—	2	1	—	1
		Total - - -	2	15	13	—	4

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In the form which follows, viz., diseases of out-patients treated in the Colonial Hospital, the table shows the diseases for which the civilian population only seek relief at Government institutions, and I need hardly remark that statistics of this nature, if regularly kept, will to some extent be a gauge of the trust put in European medicine by the natives.

V. *Out-Patients treated at the Colonial Hospital.*

Reference to Nomenclature.		Diseases.	January.	February.	March.	For the Quarter.
I.	—	Dysentery - - - -	—	1	1	2
„	—	Intermittent fever - - -	2	4	3	9
„	—	Syphilis, primary - - -	—	—	1	1
„	—	„ secondary - - -	—	1	2	3
„	—	Rheumatism, subacute and chronic -	3	1	5	9
„	—	Yaws - - - -	1	1	—	2
II.	d.	Epilepsy - - - -	—	—	1	1
IV.	—	Diseases of the ear - - -	—	3	2	5
V.	—	„ the nose - - -	—	—	1	1
VII.	b.	„ trach. and bronchi -	4	2	5	11
„	c.	„ lung - - -	1	1	—	2
„	d.	„ pleura - - -	1	—	—	1
VIII.	d.	„ teeth, &c. - -	—	—	2	2
„	j.	„ intestines - -	2	6	12	20
„	k.	„ rectum and anus -	—	—	1	1
IX.	a.	„ spleen - - -	1	—	—	1
„	b.	„ lymphatics - -	—	—	1	1
XIII.	a. i.	„ male urethra -	—	1	1	2
XIV.	b.	„ female breast - -	—	—	1	1
XV.	a.	„ bones, &c. - -	2	—	—	2
XVI.	—	„ connect. tiss. - -	—	2	—	2
XVII	—	„ skin - - -	4	6	6	16
XIX.	b. l.	Injuries to head and face - -	—	1	—	1
„	b. ix.	„ upper extremities -	2	3	1	6
„	b. x.	„ lower extremities -	2	1	3	6
XXI.	b.	Filaria medinensis - - -	—	—	1	1
„	c.	Nematoda - - - -	1	—	—	1
		Total - - -	26	34	50	110
		Average daily attendance - - -	1·58	4·14	5·19	3·62

The average number of times that each of these patients attended is 2 · 96, or practically three times each.

There have been no epidemic diseases prevalent; the natives do not appear to be acquainted with the value of vaccination, for I endeavoured to start vaccinating here, but have had to give it up, sheerly from want of subjects.

GENERAL REMARKS.

All that I have had to say on sanitation and health matters in general with reference to this coast I have already embodied in my reports on Elmina and Cape Coast. Two matters stand out prominently in this climate, and both have far wider bearings than those on sanitation alone. I refer in the first instance to agriculture, and in the next to the systematic investigation of disease, whether of man or of the lower animals.

In my report for Cape Coast I spoke of the importance of supplanting man as the only carrier. He is expensive, for in addition to his eating and sleeping he has his little wants and luxuries. The lower animals need none such, but unfortunately the reason why horses and cattle will not thrive in parts of the coast remains a profound secret, and for no other reason than that the subject has not been investigated. In that report I made rather a bold suggestion, viz., the possibility of malarial infection. I say this was a bold suggestion, for all attempts to communicate malarial fever to these animals have hitherto been unsuccessful; nevertheless they are known to suffer from pathological conditions which in man are attributable to malaria; and hence I made my suggestion on the grounds of general pathology, rather than those of veterinary medicine. Accordingly it was to me a source of gratification to find that Dr. Grigorescu, the secretary to a mixed commission of physicians and veterinarians, appointed by the Government of Roumania to investigate an outbreak of what was termed by the veterinarians "Gastro-entero-nephritis," of horned cattle, in the district of Ilfov, of which he was the principal medical officer, writes to the effect that "L'impaludisme des "animaux, pour peu étudié qu'il soit, paraît être un sujet "d'enseignement pour la pathologie générale autant que pour "la médicine comparée," and in the main he concludes that the malady, to which such an outlandish name has been given, is essentially the same as that to which the German veterinarians gave the name of Schwarz Harnwinde (blackwater evil) when it occurs in the horse, and which is popularly called blackwater fever on this coast when it occurs in man. In short the disease was malarial hæmoglobinuria, attended with febrile phenomena, and accordingly he heads his paper, "L'impaludisme des bêtes "bovine et la hémoglobinurie."* Of course it would be rash of me to conclude on this that this is the actual pathological condition

* Revue de Médicine, February 1887.

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from which the lower animals suffer in this Colony; but it is strong presumptive evidence, particularly when we recollect that Roumania is, in the words of Grigorescu, "Eminemment paludéen." Some of the conclusions in this paper are of such interest, that I may be pardoned introducing them here, the following especially:—

"Chose étrange, ces conditions qui engendrent d'une manière très marquée l'impaludisme dans la population rurale (conditions que j'ai précisées assez clairement dans les rapports généraux de mon service médical du département d'Ilfov des années 1881, 1882, et 1883) semblent absolument donner naissance à la maladie dont il s'agit, puisque l'apparition de fièvre intermittentes chez l'homme coincide très exactement avec l'apparition de cette maladie des bêtes à cornes, et que les oscillations d'intensité et d'extension de ces endémies et de ces épizooties ont une relation assez marquée."

And his conclusion is as follows:—

"Máladie fébrile adignamique, avec dissolution du sang; lesions anatomo-pathologiques pétéchiales avec alterations hypoplastiques profondes du sang; conditions étiologiques très analogues à celle de l'impaludisme, et correlation manifeste de cette maladie avec les fièvres paludéenes chez l'homme."

On turning from the diseases of the lower animals to those of man, what strikes the reader of West African medical annals is the number of new diseases and new names, such as blackwater fever, craw-craw, and sleeping sickness. In spite of this, however, I feel bound to add that, with the exception of ainhum and yaws, there is no disease that I have seen on this coast which I have not seen in India.

About *blackwater fever*.—I have spoken at length elsewhere, and in the language of the "Lancet" criticism of my brochure on malarial fever, I "reprobate the introduction of the term." Far from being a new disease, or one confined to West Africa, it is an old affection, and occurs in Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and, for aught I know, in Australasia (New Guinea). I do not mean to enter into any lengthened account of this affection in this place, but I would only remark that Tomasselli reports cases from Sicily. Surgeon-Major Firth gives four cases he has observed amongst European soldiers in the Punjâb ("British Medical Journal," 23rd October 1886). Van Leent describes the affection as the "febris remittens biliosa" of Europeans in Sumatra, and I have elsewhere given references to American accounts. So much for this new disease and its new name.

As to *craw-craw*, I was much amused on reading in Cobbold's "Parasites of Man" of "the African cutaneous disorder termed craw-craw." This term, so far as I am aware, is used generically by the natives to indicate any pruriginous cutaneous eruption, and includes such widely different eruptions as psoriasis, eczema, ringworm, and itch.

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Again, on the matter of *sleeping sickness*, Sir Joseph Fayrer identifies the disease with Beri-beri, and he does this on the authority of Horton, whose work is rather a compilation than a reflex of the practice and observation of a West African physician. I have in one of my reports on the gaol in Elmina said that I employ the term Beri-beri only tentatively, for after having seen both diseases I conclude that there is very little in common between them. To arrive at any conclusion with respect to this affection we need not confine ourselves to the annals of tropical medicines. Anyone reading Surgeon-Major Gore's graphic account of this disease, and Sidney Coupland's equally graphic account of the last stages of pernicious anæmia in his Gulstonian lectures, cannot but be struck with the parallelism of the accounts. Reyher, of Dorpat, in a paper on pernicious anæmia in the "Deutsches Archiv für "Klinisches medicin, vol. 39," speaks of the special proneness to sleep as characteristic of some cases, so much so, that he suggests their being grouped together in a sub-class as "nervous." I have met with two cases, both in the Elmina Gaol; and was able to follow them out from first to last, and in both arrived at the conclusion that I was dealing with what for want of a better name is termed "progressive pernicious anæmia." In both the sleeping stage was preceded for some months by anæmia which was progressive. One case died soon after the onset of this sleeping stage; the other recovered, but remained weak and anæmic for six months, then relapsed into the sleeping stage, and died. The state of my health at the time when the first patient died was such that I could not perform an autopsy; and I was not in Elmina when the second died. For my own part I feel fully convinced that the sleeping sickness of West Africa is the pernicious anæmia of Europe; but the difficulty is, to which particular class of cases of pernicious anæmia are we to refer those occurring here. To refer them to malarial anæmia would indeed be very plausible in a malarious country, but in one case recorded by Gore, there was hyperæmia of the membranes of the brain.

The brain itself was normal, but anæmic; the lateral ventricles contained about a drachm and a half of serum; the thoracic organs were normal; *the pylonic end of the stomach contained bloody suggilations, and for about three feet beyond this the intestine was dark red, contracted, and contained a large quantity of thick bloody fluid.* This is indeed very suggestive of the anchylosloma duodenale, to which the pernicious anæmia of the workmen in St. Gothard's tunnel was traced; and Hirsch says, in his great work on Historico-Geographical Pathology, that it is accepted that the "Cachexie aqueuse," another new name, of Senegambia and the Guinea Coast, is due to this parasite. Whether the parasite has been actually observed in man in West Africa, I do not know, but Leuckhart has found the anchylosloma duodenale in the gorilla,* and as West Africa is gorilla land, this is presump-

* Parasites of Man.—Hoyle's Translation, vol. i., p. 173.

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tive evidence. Then again there might be other causes for pernicious anæmia, *e.g.*, in Reyher's cases he traced it to the Bothriocephalus latus. To whatever it might be due it certainly deserves to be investigated.

As I have frequently remarked in my official reports, this Colony is overshadowed by a curse, the curse of a bad name. It would serve no useful purpose "to waste the time yet ours, in "trampling on thistles because they have yielded us no figs," it is useless lamenting the fact that to preserve the monopoly of an extraordinarily lucrative trade merchants have damned the place, by giving it a bad name, and thus crippled all attempts at developing the resources of the Colony. We can at least serve one useful purpose, we can show that we enjoy no monopoly of any one peculiarly fatal and malignant disease; that even in malaria we cannot claim pre-eminence; for the "pernicious comatose" form of malarial fever in which after a single paroxysm the patient dies in coma, and which is so common in Italy, is unknown here.

Another point, on which we cannot, as a department, insist too strongly, even if we restrict ourselves to the narrowest view of the question, viz., the preservation of health, is the encouragement of agriculture, and what goes with it, subsoil drainage. The most superficial observer cannot have failed to notice that we have here those geological features most calculated to encourage the development of malaria, viz., an upper layer of loose porous soil, underlaid by a stratum of impermeable rock, so that a certain amount of moisture is always present. I had an opportunity a short while ago of observing the formation of the soil in a shaft sunk at the Akankoo mine; for about 20 feet the miners went through a soft sandy soil; they then came upon a layer of soft sandstone, beneath which, for 30 feet in depth, they passed through what is best described as "slush"; the amount of water was so great that 200 to 300 buckets full were taken out of the shaft having a sectional area of 36 square feet, in 20 hours; below this again they met with a hard impermeable layer of slate. In this we have all the soil conditions necessary for the development of malaria.

One of the most interesting papers that has yet appeared on the hygiene of malaria is by Tomassi Crudelli; a translation of it *in extenso* will be found in the "Practitioner" for October 1881. After describing the geological features of the Campagna, he draws attention to the discoveries by Father Secchi, and the Italian engineer Di Tucci, of a subterranean system of canals in the neighbourhood of Rome; these canals are about five feet in depth and 18 inches wide, they freely communicate with one another, and are almost entirely in the subsoil, so that they thoroughly drained it; in this manner it was that malaria was almost unknown there, and that it should have become the pleasure ground of Ancient Rome, and that it was studded with the pleasure palaces of the Cæsars and of the Senators; but with

the fall of Rome, this sanitary work was neglected, the canals are now choked, "and thus it is," says Hertz, "that this, which was "so long a blooming garden, has for the past 400 years been "laid desolate, and has passed into a bye word as a malarial "region." It would not be difficult to produce other instances, where interference with agricultural and subsoil drainage has ended in making previously healthy places notoriously malarial, but this one will suffice. Throughout Italy, political conditions for the past few centuries have been such as almost to completely paralyse agricultural industry, and now "no part of Italy can be "traversed without the signs of this destructive agency (malaria) "to take the sweetness out of life and to bring continually near "the shadow of death. Not merely does it here and there "peremptorily curtail the field of industry; everywhere it "threatens the labourer and saddens his life."

(Signed) C. H. EYLES,
Assistant Surgeon,
In Medical Charge, Axim.

No. 3.

The ACTING GOVERNOR to Sir H. T HOLLAND.

Government House, Gold Coast,
Accra, August 22, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of sanitary reports on the Accra, Quittah, and Winnebah districts for the quarter ended 30th June 1887. I have not received reports for the other districts as yet.

2. *Accra.*

In paragraph 1 of his report on this district, Dr. McCarthy, the Chief Medical Officer, refers to the unusual sick and death rate for the past wet season, the death rate having been 86·99 per thousand.

3. In paragraph 2, Dr. McCarthy refers to the necessity for the erection of ice machines at Accra and Elmina. From my tropical experience, extending over 23 years on the West Coast of Africa and the West Indies, I can thoroughly endorse his recommendations as to the value of ice as a means of vitality in those regions; in the West Indies indeed it has for some time past become to be regarded as a necessity of life. I will refer to this subject in a subsequent Despatch. I may, however, here mention that the ice machine imported and installed at Christiansborg Castle, on the recommendation of the late Governor Ussher, has never yet, so far as I can learn, produced a pound of ice, although efforts have been made by both the late Mr. Young and Sir W. Brandford Griffith to obtain some practical result from the

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large expenditure which was incurred in its purchase, and further that it is not only the civil population which would derive benefit therefrom, but also Her Majesty's ships and troops, and the steamers which pass this Colony some two or three times a week.

4. Twelve public land latrines and one on the beach were erected under the orders of Sir W. Brandford Griffith last year, but it has been found necessary to remove one of the former owing to the objections of the so-called owners of the land on which it was located to allow it to remain. Dr. McCarthy now recommends that they should be doubled in number. On this subject I would observe that the condition of Accra is no worse than that of many other villages and towns on the coast in proportion to their relative size, while in no other Colony that I know of are latrines erected by the Government. That such recommendation is desirable I admit, but in a Colony which is but 17 years old the Government cannot provide for the various pressing sanitary and social requirements in one year, or, as I apprehend, looking to the unhealthy nature of the climate, will it be able to do so in 20 years. The Public Works Department has more on its hands than it can possibly perform, and Dr. McCarthy himself alludes to the evasion of the use of latrines when they have been erected, and also the obstruction experienced by the Government to their erection.

5. In paragraph 4 Dr. McCarthy recurs to what is styled the pig nuisance at Accra. I cannot undertake to grapple with this question during the short remaining term of my administration. Matters which may seem simple to those unacquainted with the difficulties of administration often involve far more difficulty to the Executive, upon whom the responsibility and means of devising measures for dealing practically with the subject in question ultimately devolve.

6. The question of improving the sanitation of Accra by creating wide thoroughfares and open spaces is again referred to in paragraph 5 of Dr. McCarthy's report. To follow his recommendations would involve the expenditure of a very large sum of money. Recently an effort has been made to open up a lane leading to the centre of the town, and a vote of 400*l.* was taken at a meeting of the Legislative Council, held on the 7th April, for the necessary funds. The people, however, positively refuse to sell their houses, and the only course open to the Government is to take possession of them under the Public Lands Ordinance, No. 8, of 1876. This course entails a year's delay, and the court may eventually award to them a sum exceeding the value of the property as at present estimated; but the circumstances will perhaps, to some extent at least, show the probable cost involved in carrying out the local improvements suggested, which must be met from the general revenue, although all the other towns on the coast are no doubt in need of similar sanitary improvements, and municipal taxes would, in the presen

state of semi-civilization, be very difficult to levy or collect. I think it highly advisable, however, that the future extension of th town should be regulated under section 13 of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, No. 10, of 1878, and I have drawn the attention of the Acting Surveyor-General to the matter.

7. *Quittah.*

Sanitary carts have already been requisitioned for to supply the want alluded to by Dr. Metherell, and a foreman of works will be sent down to repair the Government buildings and proceed with other works as soon as one is available for the purpose.

8. *Winnebah*

The short-handed state of the Public Works Department prevents any officer being sent to this station also, to take in hand the public buildings, tank, and the digging of the well alluded to by Dr. Smith in his report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. B. P. WHITE, Colonel,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

The CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Medical Department, Accra,
July 22, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Administrator, the following report for the quarter ending 30th June 1887 on the sanitary conditions and requirements of Accra, and respectfully request he will be good enough to submit it for the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. D. MCCARTHY,
Chief Medical Officer.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
New Site.

Gold Coast.

Quarterly Sanitary Report.

Accra.

Rainfall and its Effects.

1. It is a fact that an excess of seasonal conditions, whatever they may be, will induce an excess of disease in some form, or, as Hippocrates puts it in one of his famous aphorisms, "Constant "and seasonable times of the year are accompanied by diseases "which are regular and mild, but in inconstant and unseasonable "times the diseases are uncertain and difficult of cure."

The rainfall on the Gold Coast this year has been considerably in excess of that of any of the last seven years, 31 inches having fallen up to June 30th, and though this is trifling when compared with the rainfall of Sierra Leone or Lagos, yet being a very unusual fall for the Gold Coast, it is reasonable to attribute to its effects the very large amount of sickness which during the past quarter has prevailed amongst Europeans at Accra and more especially at Cape Coast and Elmina.

At Accra the disease popularly termed "black-water fever" has been very prevalent, and as all the cases (5) occurred within the space of a month, I am inclined to regard it as an epidemic. Two cases recovered and were invalided to England, Assistant Colonial Surgeon Waldron and Mr. Allan, of the Direct Telegraph Company; the other two died, Mr. Teare, engineer, National African Company, and Mr. West, of the West African Telegraph Company. The symptoms of the two latter were extremely acute, death being caused in both by suppression of urine. A member of the Basel Mission also died of the same disease, but in his case total suppression of the hepatic functions was superadded to the characteristic renal affection. Thus out of a European population of 60, three died in a month, which is at the rate of 50 in a 1,000. Most of the cases of sickness which occurred amongst Europeans at Accra were characterised by adynamic symptoms, which I attribute to the unusual meteorological conditions. Indeed, in seeking to connect diseases, and especially those of an epidemic character, with certain states of vitality of the system, it must be borne in mind that the nature of the season will exert a marked effect upon the type of disease prevalent at the time.

Necessity of Ice Machines.

2. I should be guilty of a grave omission were I not to call the attention of the Administrator to the very great and pressing need there is, and indeed always has been, for the supply of ice

machines to this coast. Amongst all physicians serving and practising here, there is only one opinion held of the inestimable value of ice as a medicinal agent.

In the treatment of the malignant fevers which have lately occurred here, I would at times have given any price for a pound or two of ice could I have got it, for I am convinced, and I am supported in the opinion by the other physicians with whom I consulted, that had we had ice the symptom of vomiting, which above all others gives most trouble, might have been considerably modified, if not, as in the case of the late Chief Justice Bailey, altogether stopped. Indeed, it is to the use of ice in his case that I attribute my success in bringing him through the fever, for it enabled him to take nourishment by the mouth which could not have been retained without the ice, which fortunately he was supplied with from a passing steamer.

But it is not only as a medicinal agent that ice is useful here. All meat must be cooked at the farthest in 12 hours after it is killed, and the consequence is that the digestive system, whose "functions are always in Europeans below par in a tropical, "malarious country" is tested beyond its normal powers. Hence the constant necessity there is in this climate for the use of medicines to check disorders and support the powers of digestion. Had we, however, a large and efficient ice machine, say at Accra and Elmina, each of which would produce at least half a ton a day, the Europeans in the neighbourhood of these central stations could be each provided with, and would be only too glad to pay for a daily supply of three or four pounds of ice, which quantity placed in a small refrigerator would maintain a sufficiently low temperature to preserve meat and other articles of food for a week and more. Then the meat would be tender and nourishing, not as it now too often is, tough and indigestible as old horse. I have seen meat brought from market three hours after it was killed, and quivering on the dish; in this state it was cooked.

3. *Public Latrines.*

It is true that the public latrines which were established last year have somewhat modified the abiding foul odour which helps to render Accra unsafe for Europeans to reside in. Twelve months' experience, however, proves that to meet effectually the requirements of the public the land latrines must be doubled and at least six large ones built on the beach.

There is, I am sorry to say, a difficulty which the Government has to contend against in this matter, and that is (1) the evasion of their use and (2) the obstruction afforded to their erection.

(1.) Though they for whose special wants the latrines are provided know that it is for their benefit they are erected, they avoid using them whenever they can, preferring the primitive and time-honoured method of relieving nature to the more decent,

GOLD COAST.

sanitary, and civilised arrangement furnished by Government for their use.

(4.) The presumed owners of unoccupied land also on which these latrines are sought to be placed frequently object to their presence, and have been known from sheer pig-headed perversity to refuse to yield their consent even to an offer of compensation for the little plots occupied by them. It is little use to point out to them the evident advantage of these latrines to themselves and their neighbours with the hope of overcoming their prejudice against them. We have, however, one hope left, though it is a very remote one, and that is that, as in the case of all primitive people, time and education will enable them to recognise and appreciate the value of this and other sanitary measures which the Government will from time to time find it necessary to adopt for the benefit of the community. All this obstruction would, however, disappear before the authority of an ordinance, and the sooner it is passed *and put into force* the better, for the "Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance" does not deal with this special subject.

4. *The Pig Nuisance.*

Dr. Easmon, in his appendix to my report of last year, makes the following statement:—"The concurrent existence of the pig "nuisance and the public latrine system is veritably the *reductio* "*ad absurdum* of the latter," which, being interpreted, means, I suppose, that whilst the pig nuisance exists public latrines can be of little value. If this be his meaning, he is right. When, however, I reflect on the frequency with which both myself and others have treated this subject, I must own that it is with a feeling akin to despair that I again approach it.

Will anything ever be done to stamp out this gigantic nuisance?

Will anything ever be done even to mitigate it?

It has been complained of by all the Europeans who have ever lived at Accra, it is the direct cause of much of the sickness in the town; it has earned for Accra too uncomplimentary a name for me to quote it here. And yet it continues to exist.

I am aware it was, and I suppose is still, the intention of the Government to build piggeries for the people. I am convinced, however, that, considerate and if I may say philanthropic as the intention is, it is a misdirected one. I thought so at the time it was first proposed, but so firmly had the project taken hold of the official mind that I felt it would be no use suggesting the alternative method which I advocate below.

We are anxious to educate this people, and are spending a liberal sum of money annually on schools, and meantime we are neglecting to instil into them the wholesome and elevating lesson of self-reliance and self-help. If they once begin to perceive that the Government will do for them what they can do, and in all reason should be made to do, for themselves, they will very naturally sit down and look on with that characteristic apathy

which we so much condemn in them, but which we unconsciously foster by our own injudicious and to them hurtful social policy. Some few weeks ago Mr. Bartlett, the Auditor, asked one of the oldest inhabitants of Accra, Mr. Hansen, whether there would be any difficulty in carrying out the pig ordinance. He replied, "No; the natives would not like it, but if they had two or three "weeks' notice there would be no difficulty in carrying it out *if* "*the Government were in earnest and made them do it.*"

Acta non verba is the motto which should be our invariable guide in governing this people; the reverse they ridicule, for when they hear that a sanitary ordinance is passed which has for its object the removal of a nuisance (which they consider a necessity of life), and that that ordinance is allowed to die still-born, they lose, and is it not natural that they should lose, all respect for the instrument? The Bishop of the Niger, than whom no man knows his countrymen better, once said to me:—"My people are like "unruly children; they require to be governed with a strong "hand and often whipped." It is evidently on the first of these two methods that the Germans are ruling their people in the Cameroons. Captain Ewart, who resides temporarily at King Jack Town, told me last April that the pig nuisance in that town was once as great as at Accra. The German Governor, however, was not there a fortnight before he issued an order, in terms not to be mistaken or evaded, for the pigs to be styed. A week after not a pig was to be seen at large. Why this ready compliance? Simply because they knew well that the Governor would inflict the penalty for disobedience cited in his order. In dealing with this abominable nuisance the German Governor saw that if the sanitary condition of the town was to be improved at all the pigs must be styed, and having the moral and physical welfare of the natives as well as Europeans in view as a prime consideration, he did not allow either so-called "political considerations" or a mistaken "deference to the feelings of the inhabitants" to interfere with what he knew would be an inestimable blessing to the community at large. It must be remembered, however, that he did not build piggeries for the people; he made them provide their own, thus giving them a first lesson in self-help.

In conclusion, then, I say, put our pig ordinance in force, and in such a manner as will show the people that its provisions will be carried out to the letter, and the result will be, as it has been in the Cameroons, respect for and consequent ready obedience to a law enacted for their benefit.

5. *Condition of Accra.*

In my Sanitary Report for 1885 I alluded to the manner in which the native habitations of this town are thrown together. Tiresome and wearying as the task of repeating an oft-told tale is not only to myself but to those who may have to read it, sanitary considerations compel me to keep such subjects constantly before

Gold Coast. the authorities, in the hope that on some favourable occasion the necessity which exists for this jumbled up mass of hovels composing nine-tenths of the town to be intersected by broad thoroughfares will receive the consideration it demands.

No one who has not seen this town can form the remotest idea of the frightful condition it is in after a night's rainfall. The lanes which intersect it are on an average only from 4 to 6 feet wide, some less. At the imminent risk of being infected by its poisonous emanations I walked through the purlieus of the town one morning after a night's rain; the scene which met my view and the foul stench that arose from the black mud of lanes and compounds churned up by natives and pigs are indescribable. In two days after I was knocked down with an attack of fever and congestion of liver. This may have been a coincidence, but it looks far more like cause and effect, more especially as my annual attacks of congestion of liver come in the Harmattan season only. I have frequently perambulated this town in the dry weather, but at that time no conception whatever can be formed of its condition in the wet season.

I make this statement in order to obviate the possibility of my description of the condition of the town in wet weather being exaggerated by any one who may inspect the place in the dry weather. As above said, however, the only remedy for the evil is to open up the town by wide streets and compel the natives to build their houses in some kind of regular order.

The population is congested to a most alarming extent, and it has been shown by eminent statisticians that the mortality of towns varies with the density of population; indeed so invariable is the rule that it was reduced by the late Dr. Farr to a mathematical formula. And to the manner in which this population, and for the matter of that the population of almost every other town on the coast, is packed together, may be attributed a very large per-centage of the sickness and mortality which exists amongst them when unseasonable meteorological conditions occur. Other conditions concur of course in raising the sick and death rate, such as filthy habits, indifferent food, the want of fresh vegetables, and especially intemperance, in the use of the villanous compounds imported here under the name of rum and gin, &c., yet I feel assured that if we could give them in and around their dwellings more air space where nature's great purifiers, grass and trees, could be grown, the physical condition, and with it as a direct result the moral status of the people would in time discover a marked improvement.

As I have often stated in other reports, both here and at Lagos, it is utterly impossible to obtain anything approaching reliable data respecting either the sick or death rate of the native population of the towns on this coast.

The people have the strongest possible repugnance against the "white man's" interference in their domestic affairs, and especially against his knowing anything concerning the sickness and deaths occurring in their families. They even endeavour to conceal cases of

small-pox, preferring to treat the patients at home to sending them to the contagious diseases hospital. Even the inspector of nuisance or other native official who may be instructed to make inquiries on this subject will not obtain anything more than partial information. To compile statistics from such data would be to follow the example of the registrar of births and deaths of Lagos, whose figures, when I analysed them in 1883–4, made Lagos appear to be as healthy as Southsea or Brighton; his death rate was about 17 per 1,000.

At the present time there is an epidemic of measles raging at Accra, but I connot ascertain if any other disease is unusually prevalent.

The attached tabular statistical report is one which I have only just compiled and forwarded for insertion in the rules and regulations which I prepared last month, and which I trust will be printed and in the hands of the medical staff before the beginning of the year.

A glance at this report will show how important is the information it contains, and I sincerely trust that the medical officers at outstations will do their utmost to obtain the data it embodies, especially those which are included in tables (*a*) and (*b*), which show a comparison between the sick and death rate of not only the official and civil public, but also between the English and members of other European nationalities temporarily resident on the coast.

The reason I make this a quarterly report is that contingencies of sickness amongst the medical staff would certainly interfere with its correct compilation annually, and as it will necessitate the collation of the statistics which are now rendered in the monthly sanitary report forwarded to head-quarters from outstations, and which will be practically useless, seeing that the information it contains will be given in the attached return, I therefore propose to abolish the monthly report at the beginning of next year.

Indeed, owing to the very great amount of extra clerical work which the keeping and rendering of the store accounts have imposed on the medical officer and dispenser of each outstation, I deem it necessary to do away with all returns from those stations which are not absolutely required for statistical purposes.

It will be seen by this report that no deaths occurred at Accra amongst European officials* during this very unhealthy season, whilst four died out of the civil European population,* making its death rate 86·99 per 1,000.

Before closing this report I may mention that on the 10th instant both Mr. Bartlett,† the Auditor, and Mr. Manford,† the Comptroller of Customs, were seized with malignant malarial fever. Both have fortunately recovered. Mr. Bartlett will go to

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* Total strength of European officials, 30.
" " civil European population, 46.
Vide table (*a*) and (*b*) in attached report.

† Both these officers have since died.

GOLD COAST. Aburi, but Mr. Manford's case was too serious and the hepatic complications too grave to admit of his staying on any part of the coast. He has left to-day for Canary, where it is hoped his health will be fully re-established.

(Signed) J. D. McCARTHY,
Accra, July 22, 1887. Chief Medical Officer.

TABULAR REPORT of the VITAL STATISTICS of the COLONIAL HOSPITAL and DISTRICT of ACCRA for the Quarter ending June 30th, 1887.

In-Patients treated.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Remaining in hospital from last quarter -	27	10	37
Admitted in current quarter - -	74	7	81
Total - - -	101	17	118
Number of patients cured - -	67	10	77
„ „ relieved - -	10	1	11
„ „ not relieved -	3	—	3
„ „ died - -	6	—	6
„ „ under treatment on 30th June.	15	6	21
Daily average number of patients during the quarter.	1·1	·18	1·19

	New Cases.	Old Cases.	New Cases.	Old Cases.	
Out-patients treated during the quarter -	862	3,400	316	3,638	8,246
Daily average number of out-patients, old cases not included, treated during the quarter.	9·7		3·3		12·10
Grand total of all patients, old cases included, who received medical aid during the quarter.	4,403		3,951		8,364

List of Operations performed during the Quarter.

Operation.	No. of Cases.	Male.	Female.	Result.	Remarks.
Removal of right maxilla -	1	1	—	Recovered.	For necrosis of the bone.
Amputation of both forearms.	1	1	—	Do.	Hands blown off whilst loading a gun.
Incision for periostitis -	1	1	—	Do.	Child 3 months old.
Opening thoracic sinuses -	1	—	1	Do.	Very deep and extensive, under *Fascia lata.*
„ deep abscess in thigh.	1	1	—	Do.	
Circumcision - -	1	1	—	Do.	
Removal of tumour from ear	1	—	1	Do.	
Total - -	7	5	2		

The prevailing diseases during the quarter were (in hospital) :— Malignant fever with hæmoglobinuria, 2; constipation, 97; ulcer, 166; rheumatism, 113; bronchitis, 91; skin diseases, 98; fever, intermittent, 68; conjunctivitis, 60; wounds, 56; tinea, 42.

Causes of Death.

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Remarks.
Dysentery - - -	2	—	2	Native.
Diarrhœa - - -	1	—	1	„
Morbus cordis and dropsy -	1	—	1	„
Marasmus - - -	1	1	2	„
Scrotæ ulceration - -	1	—	1	„
Sleeping sickness - -	1	—	1	„
Malignant fever - -	1	—	1	European.
Total - - -	8	1	9	

TABLE showing the number INVALIDED and DIED, together with the DEATH RATE of EUROPEAN OFFICIALS who have resided in the TOWN and DISTRICT of ACCRA during the whole or part of the Quarter ending June 30th 1887.—A.

No.	Name.	Age.	Rank.	Station.	Disease.	Duration. From	Duration. To	Result.	Period resident
1	D. H. R. Waldron - - - (West Indian.)	35	Assistant Surgeon	Accra - -	Malignant fever -	7 June -	10 June -	Invalided -	31st March to 10 June.

Total invalided, 1; died, nil; death rate per 1,000, nil.

TABLE showing the DISEASES from which each Official suffered during his residence within the Quarter.

No.	Name.	Rank.	Disease.	No. of Days.	Disease.	No. of Days.	Disease.	From	To	Disease.	From	To	Period of Residence.
1	Sir W. B. Griffith - -	Governor - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24 months 5 days
2	F. B. P. White, Col. -	Administrator - -	Fever - -	4 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14 „ 24 „
3	Hector McLeod - -	Chief Justice -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6 „ 7 „
4	Percival Hughes - -	A. C. Secretary - -	Gout - -	18 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 „ 7 „
5	W. H. Q. Jones - -	Queen's Advocate -	Anemia -	11 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12 „ 10 „
6	Joseph Worrall - -	Treasurer - -	Fever - -	10 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 „ 7 „
7	Henry Bartlett - -	Auditor - - -	„ - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 „ 4 „
8	William Manford - -	Comptroller of Customs	„ - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 month 27 „
9	J. D. McCarthy - -	Chief Medical Officer -	Congested liver	5 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 months 12 „
10	John Pagan - -	Surveyor-General -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12 „ 8 „
11	W. B. Griffith - -	District Commissioner -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0 „ 4 „
12	C. D. Turton - -	Assistant Secretary -	Fever - -	4 days	Fever -	5 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	14 „ 10 „
13	W. W. Hull - -	„ „ -	„ - -	10 „	„ -	4 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 „ 1 day
14	R. E. Firminger - -	Inspector-General G.C.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 month 0 „
15	R. J. Norris - -	A.D.C. - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9 months 17 days
16	Mathew Jones - -	Assistant Surveyor -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8 „ 24 „
17	L. J. Bertram - -	Assistant Auditor -	Fever - -	13 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12 „ 0 „
18	W. Cuddiford - -	Supervisor - -	„ - -	8 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 „ 1 day
19	Riby Williams - -	„ - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13 „ 12 days
20	C. J. C. Hawker - -	„ - -	Fever - -	4 days	Fever -	8 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	15 „ 2 „
21	H. S. Bascon - -	„ - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 „ 29 „
22	W. B. Mais - -	Clerk of Audit - -	Fever - -	7 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21 „ 6 „
23	Rees Jones* - -	Electrician - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0 „ 21 „
24	W. Lee - -	Foreman of Works -	Colic - -	2 days	Fever -	22 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 „ 7 „
25	J. Rowe - -	„ „ -	Fever - -	7 „	„ -	1 day	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 „ 10 „
26	J. Taylor - -	„ „ -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13 „ 2 „
27	W. Olliver - - -	„ „ -	Fever - -	4 days	Fever -	1 day -	—	—	—	—	—	—	5 „ 3 „
28	R. A. Freeman - -	Assistant Surgeon -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 month 0 „
29	R. D. Douglas - -	Assistant Inspector -	Fever - -	7 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9 months 9 „
30	F. M. Hackett - -	„ „ -	Iritis - -	—	Fever -	7 days	—	—	—	—	—	—	8 „ 9 „

* Mr. Rees Jones left Accra for Cape Coast on the 21st April, where he died on the 8th June.

TABLE showing number INVALIDED and DIED, together with DEATH RATE of Civil European Population who resided in the TOWN and DISTRICT of ACCRA during the whole or part of the Quarter ending June 30th, 1887.

B.

No.	Name.	Age.	Sex.	Residence.	Period of Residence.		Nationality.	Occupation.	Disease.	Duration.		Result.
					From	To				From	To	
1	J. F. Teare - -	41	Male	Accra - -	29 April -	2 May -	English -	Marine engineer.	Malignant fever -	1887. 29 April -	1887. 2 May -	Died.
2	J. C. Allan - -	21	„	„ - -	6 „ -	31 May -	„ -	Electrician -	„ „ -	23 May -	31 May -	Invalided.
3	— West - -	43	„	„ - -	14 July 1886	2 July 1887	„ -	„ -	„ „ -	26 June	2 July -	Died.
4	— Burnett - -	34	„	„ - -	11 July 1886	July 1887	„ -	Merchant -	Climatic debility	15 June -	2 July -	Invalided.
5	R. Fisch - -	31	„	Aburi and Accra.	April 1885	16 June 1887	German -	Physician -	Hepatitis and dysentery.	2 June -	16 June -	„
6	R. Blust - -	27	„	Accra - -	25 Nov. -	12 July 1887	„ -	Mechanic -	Malignant fever -	7 June -	12 June -	Died.
7	T. Hanner - -	28	„	„ - -	April 1884	16 May 1887	„ -	Merchant -	„ „ -	12 May -	16 May -	„

Total number resident in the district during the quarter, 46.*
Total invalided, 3; died, 4; death rate, 86·99.

* This number includes 4 females, 3 English, 1 German.

GOLD COAST.

Assistant Colonial Surgeon METHERELL to CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

Quittah,
July 4, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to send you a short Sanitary Report on the Quittah district for the half year ending June 30th, 1887. The half year has been an unhealthy one both for Europeans and natives. This I attribute to the heavy rains which have prevailed. Old residents state that more rain has fallen this year than for many years previously. Three Europeans have died in this town since the beginning of the year. One woman (German); I do not know the cause of death, as I never saw her; one young man (German) was ill with ardent continued fever a week and died; I saw him for the first time the night he expired, and one woman (German) had been five years on the coast, and during that time had borne four children and frequently had had fever and dysentery; she was pregnant; very weak and anemic, and about the beginning of the ninth month she began to suffer again from fever and dysentery, which continued off and on for a month, when labour commenced. I saw her for the first time during labour. I found her having dysenteric motions every half hour; temperature 103°, and pulse weak, rapid, and irregular; and labour pains moderately strong and regular. She had an easy labour. The child I believe is still living and well, but the fever and dysentery continued, and she died about 12 days after confinement. Two Germans have had black-water fever, and I have had it twice, but all have made good recoveries.

The latrines which were erected here I believe to be a boon to the people, but the accommodation is neither so great nor so good as I would wish.

Two hand-carts are very much needed for the removal of the excreta. The Government buildings in this district are sadly out of repair; doors and windows off their hinges, &c., and the rain comes through the roof of every portion of them. One other European woman (German) gave birth to a child; mother and child I believe are doing well.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. A. METHERELL,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

Chief Medical Officer,
Accra.

SANITARY REPORT OF WINNEBAH DISTRICT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE 1887.

THE sanitary condition of this station has remained unchanged during this quarter, with the exception that the town in certain parts has been for days together inundated with water after a heavy fall of rain. The rainfall has been so considerable that

towards Appam the telegraph poles have been washed away, but are replaced. GOLD COAST.

In the Sanitary Report of this station for the March quarter, it was suggested that the erection of latrines and the digging of a well would be conferring a great boon on the inhabitants of this town. I am glad to observe that among the subjects discussed by his Excellency the Governor in Council on "April 7th, 1887," the erection of eight latrines for Winnebah was one which met with universal approval. A good well, in my humble opinion, will be of greater utility than the latrines referred to at the same meeting of Council, and should have a prior claim, for disease is often propagated through the medium of bad water.

The tank, which was left incomplete by force of circumstances, has been more or less full of rain water, which is removed from time to time; the masonry, however, will soon be undermined if prompt steps are not taken for its completion.

The unfinished fort has suffered considerably during the last three months. It has been exposed to the ravages of the season, as there is no roof. That portion set apart as temporary offices is rendered daily more unsafe by the rotten condition of the flooring, which is studded with numerous holes.

These things will no doubt be attended to after the expected visit of his Excellency the Governor. At any rate I beg most strenuously to submit this subject for his Excellency's information.

The number of persons receiving medical aid is still increasing; no fewer than two hundred and twenty-four patients attended the dispensary, being fifty-seven in advance of the March quarter.

The attendances are regular and punctual. So highly appreciated is the European method of treatment that people come from distances which take from two to four days hard travelling; most of these are cases of chronic ulcers, which in a short space of time are healed by "Iodoform."

The total strength of the Gold Coast constabulary at this station is forty-seven, consisting of twenty-five Houssas and twenty-two Fanti police. The health of these men has been excellent, there being only one death among the Fanti police from dysentery whilst in gaol.

The most prevalent diseases have been ulcers (simple and specific) filaria medinensis, scabies, rheumatism, bronchial catarrh, and malarial fevers.

Considering the severity of the wet season, there have been comparatively few deaths at this station, and those only among the natives.

(Signed) J. SPILSBURY SMITH,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon,
In Medical Charge.

Medical Department,
Winnebah, 30th June 1887.

GOLD COAST.

No. 4.

Administrator WHITE to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Victoriaborg,
Accra, August 27, 1887.

SIR,

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 22nd instant* I have the honour to transmit copies of Sanitary Reports on the Elmina and Addah districts for the quarter ended 30th June 1887.

2. In his report on the Elmina district Dr. Rat alludes to the fact that all the European officials at the station were attacked by fever during the quarter, one dying, Mr. Freeman, two being invalided to England, Messrs. Mackenzie and Akers, and one invalided to Aburi, Mr. Brennan. He also refers to the fact that two latrines have been constructed, that all the pigs have been successfully removed from the town, and that an enclosure has been constructed for bullocks.

3. Dr. Cole in his report for Addah also states that his sanitary measures have to some degree been successful.

4. I have not received any reports from the medical districts of Axim and Cape Coast. Dr. Eyle was invalided from Axim, and the medical duties of the Cape Coast station were discharged by an officer of the Army Medical Department during the quarter, in the absence of any available civil officer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRED. B. P. WHITE, Colonel,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

ELMINA STATION.

SANITARY REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH JUNE 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to send you the following report on the sanitary condition of Elmina for the past quarter.

From inquiries with regard to previous years I conclude that the sanitary condition of Elmina during the past quarter was exceptionally unsatisfactory. Both Europeans and natives suffered severely from fever, and the latter especially from congestion of the liver.

Among the Europeans the fever was generally of the remittent type; and the severe cases were attended with black vomit and albuminous urine. All the European officials in the castle were attacked by fever, which caused one death among them and necessitated the invaliding of two to England and one to Aburi.

Of a total of about 23 Europeans resident in the castle and town for a fortnight and upwards during the quarter three died of remittent fever.

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* No. 3.

The natives suffered from a milder form of remittent fever as well as from intermittent fever.

The number of births in Elmina during the past quarter was 44, 24 males and 20 females.

The number of deaths in the same period was 44, 31 males and 13 females.

Among the sanitary improvements during the quarter may be mentioned the erection of two latrines on the eastern shore for public use, the removal of all the pigs from the town into the country, and the construction of an enclosure for bullocks. This enclosure was built by the natives themselves on the advice of the sanitary authorities.

The heavy rains which fell during the quarter, besides destroying several natives' huts, added greatly to the unhealthiness of the station.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. NUMA RAT,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

To the Chief Medical Officer.

SANITARY REPORT ON ADDAH STATION FOR THE QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1887.

Public Dispensary, Addah,
July 6, 1887.

SIR

I HAVE the honour to state for your information that the total number of patients treated during the quarter is one thousand one hundred and twelve (1,112), 359 new and 871 old cases.

I visited the river Volta and Pram Pram districts once each during the quarter when I attended the Government officers, police constables, prisoners, and the other inhabitants of the districts who applied for medical aid, and was absent from my station from the 8th to the 12th of May to Quittah at the request of the District Commissioner of that place to attend on the Assistant Colonial Surgeon, who was ill.

It is with much regret that I have to report that during the quarter the District Commissioner of Addah, Mr. J. S. Parker, died from acute pneumonia.

The general sanitary condition of the three districts under my charge is comparatively good, and the people are now realising the benefits of carrying out the simple rules of hygiene.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SYLVESTER J. COLE, M.B.,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

The Chief Medical Officer,
New Site, Accra.

GOLD COAST.

No. 5.

Administrator WHITE to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Victoriaborg,
Accra, November 25, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the sanitary reports of the Medical Officers of this Colony for the quarter ending 30th September, as I believe that you wish to have such documents placed before you without delay.

2. The reports speak for themselves and reflect credit on the department. I am bound to confess, however, that I should be better pleased to see the results of more practical personal persistency and local influence over the natives in carrying out sanitation by simple everyday methods which would supply many wants, and could, one would think, be secured by co-operation between the District Commissioners and the Medical Officers with comparatively very little expense and without the necessity for invoking the assistance of the Public Works Department, which must be always for years to come short-handed for the work it has to perform of bringing a Colony of only 14 years of age in an unhealthy climate abreast in sanitary and other requirements with her sisters, some of centuries of establishment, which themselves in many instances have but recently conformed to improved sanitation. It must be remembered that in this Colony advancement in anything can only at present be made by incessant pressure and minute supervision by Europeans, which, if indisposed, as must frequently be the case, those officers are unable to give. I may instance as an illustration of the difficulties of progress my own case during the last month. Sir Brandford Griffith last year had sent the Surveyor-General to personally prospect and report upon the possibility of obtaining a water supply for Accra by means of pipes from the watershed of the inland range of hills. Months afterwards he mentioned the matter to me on my arrival to take up the temporary charge of the Government, and assured me that I should find the *data* and materials for taking some action supplied in the report which he had instructed the Surveyor-General to prepare. After some pressure I succeeded in obtaining this report from the Surveyor General. I found it practically useless, and in order to ensure anything being done in the matter, I had to take the Acting Surveyor-General and a Foreman of Works, and proceed myself to the interior bush on two occasions, for 17 days in all, leaving the other duties of each of us to proceed as best they might. The result has been that I have obtained the information as to the possibility of obtaining a constant water supply, which I hope shortly to lay before you, but each time on my return I have been attacked with fever, and a temperature of from 104 to 106 degrees. The Acting Surveyor-General is now on the sick list with jaundice, and the Foreman of Works suffered twice from fever

in the bush. I mention these facts, which would be of constant occurrence in similar circumstances here, in order to demonstrate the difficulty of obtaining progress and in order that the slow advance in sanitation, which might otherwise be attributed to indifference on the part of the Executive, may be ascribed, at any rate so far as Sir Brandford Griffith and myself are concerned, to its right cause, viz., want of officers who are physically able to exert themselves as might be the case in a healthier Colony. I speak from a regimental experience of the West Coast of Africa, extending over 23 years, during which time I have had the opportunity of observing what was passing around me. Great improvement has been made, and much remains to be done, but it will I fear progress but slowly. I notice with approval among these reports that some independent action has been taken by Dr. Freeman at Quittah and Dr. Cole at Addah towards improving matters at their stations.

3. I have given instructions that these papers shall be brought before Sir Brandford Griffith on his arrival, with the several recommendations abstracted for the different stations, in order that he may decide how far he may be able to give practical effect to them. I have but a few days more myself to remain in the administration of the Government.

4. I have directed the Acting Queen's Advocate to put himself in communication with the Chief Medical Officer with a view to legislation with regard to intramural sepulture and abating the nuisances on the plots of land with which Dr. McCarthy states there is no power of dealing under the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, if fresh legislation on the latter subject should on further inquiry be found to be necessary. Two of these plots have been taken up by the Government.

5. As above reported I have taken up the question of the survey of the approaches to the Secoom River north of Accra, myself, for it would be difficult, I apprehend, to bring water into the town from reservoirs formed by means of a dam across valleys which are of a lower level than Accra itself. A tram-line to carry *excreta* three miles out of the town would cost some 2,000*l.*

6. Provision for scavengers, where they are required, has been made on the Estimates for the year 1888 by Sir Brandford Griffith, the vote having been increased by 900*l.* for this service.

7. I have given instructions for the supply of the furniture and filters recommended by Dr. Rat to the officers' quarters at Elmina and for the ventilating of the castle by tunnels through the eastern and western walls in the same manner as has been done by Sir Brandford Griffith in the castle at Christiansborg.

8. The others matters referred to will not be forgotten by the Government as time and opportunity allow. The new tank at

GOLD COAST. Cape Coast referred to by Dr. Sullivan is intended for the supply of water to the troops in place of the condenser which is worn out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. B. P. WHITE, Colonel,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

The CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Medical Department, Victoriaborg,
SIR, Accra, November 8, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to submit for his Excellency's information a précis of the sanitary and gaol reports of the various Medical Officers for the quarter ending September 30th.

ACCRA.

In enumerating the subjects which call for consideration, Dr. Eyles states that two of them require legislation, viz., the pig nuisance and intramural sepulture. The doctor is of course aware that the former has been made the subject of an Ordinance, but has never been enforced, hence the filthy condition of the "capital" (*sic*) of the coast.

Water Supply.

Dr. Eyles considers the reservoir a decided advance, but not a final settlement of the question, and suggests a topographical survey with a view to bring the water of the Secoom into the town; or (a still more practical method) to dam up the valleys behind Accra and convert them into enormous reservoirs.

Latrines.

I must agree with Dr. Eyles that the trench latrine is a failure. He proposes the bucket latrine, 18 to 20 "drums" to each, and a shed to store dry earth in, also a tramway to remove these buckets to a mile or so from the town. If carried into effect this proposal will, I trust, solve the question of latrine accommodation in Accra.

Plots of Ground in the Town covered with Bush.

Though the cactus forest has been cleared Dr. Eyles points to certain "plots of ground" in the town covered with bush, which cannot be denominated "open spaces," "gardens," or "yard."

There is therefore no law to enable the Inspector of Nuisance to deal with these places which are used as latrines.

The Towns Police and Health Ordinance requires amending in this instance.

Health Matters.

General health good. Two cases only of contagious disease occurred, chicken-pox. Both were treated at the contagious diseases hospital.

Live Stock.

Health of horses good.

A wasting disease occurred amongst the pigs, but no definite information could be elicited as to the cause of such from the owners. It would not be a calamity to deplore if this wasting disease had gone on to utter extinction of the total number.

WINNEBAH.

Latrines.

Ten are needed, each with 16 or 18 "drums." Latrines to be divided in centre by partition, one side for each sex.

Scavengers.

Twelve scavengers to be appointed to empty latrines. This is essential.

Inspector of Nuisance

To be appointed, as District Commissioner cannot give satisfactory attention to supervision of town.

Axim is allowed an inspector, and Winnebah is a much larger and more important town. I would recommend that one be appointed at 2*l.* per mensem.

Pig Nuisance.

Merchants complain of the loss they sustain through pigs destroying bags of kernels placed on beach. Pigs are a great sanitary nuisance, and ought to be styed as they are at Elmina and Cape Coast.

Water Supply.

Five wells to be dug for public supply. Water of excellent quality in Ayepay Street and in the fields at Ayatiadi, behind the town.

I analysed the water and found it wholesome.

GOLD COAST.

Drains.

Two drains are badly wanted, one in Ayepay Street, the other from Abusumah to the fort.

General Health.

Satisfactory; no deaths occurred amongst Europeans.

CAPE COAST.

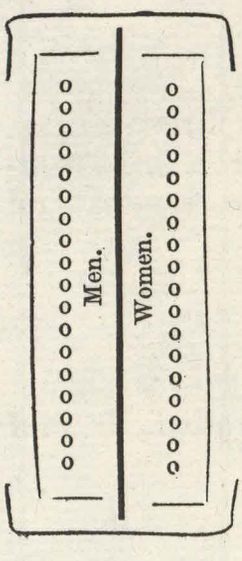
I pass over Dr. Sullivan's remarks on the "geology, vegetation, and botany," and annual products, climate, and Government institutions, and will quote from his remarks on

Tank Water Supply

which Dr. Sullivan says is of good quality, a statement which I can corroborate. There is one tank, however, the water of which I did not examine; that in the court-house yard. I have asked Dr. Sullivan to send me a sample for analysis. There is, however, no public water supply at Cape Coast, and the natives are forced to drink the water of the Cottah Crabbah wells, which is brackish and insufficient in quantity. Dr. Sullivan suggests the bringing of water to Cape Coast by means of windmill pumps from the Sweet River. He made the same suggestion in 1885, with the view of giving Elmina a constant supply of wholesome water, and bases his suggestion on a common-sense view of the subject, remarking that in a country like this where water power is next to impossible to be applied, and, from its very moist atmosphere, steam machinery would be difficult to be kept in order, that a natural force like the strong and regular winds which blow here be turned to advantage.

Public Latrines.

Present latrines are used and appreciated, but 12 more are required for men; same number for women.



[This is too much; 12 would be sufficient if, as is done at Elmina, they were divided by a partition in centre, one side for men, the other for women, each latrine to contain from 18 to 20 drums.]

Public Slaughter-houses.

Dr. Sullivan is right in drawing attention to this want, whilst Lagos has had one, as well as a fine meat market, for some years now. No town on the Gold Coast is provided with either of these most necessary establishments. In the new rules for the medical department I have drawn attention to this fact.

Drainage.

Dr. Sullivan advises a reservoir (well?) to be sunk at the head of the main drain at Cape Coast for flushing purposes. I strongly support his suggestion for a *well*, however, not a reservoir.

Town Refuse.

Refuse in outskirts of town difficult to deal with, and to enable him to keep these parts free of such collections Dr. Sullivan asks for more scavengers. To my own knowledge the town itself is as clean as under the circumstances it is possible to keep it, thanks to Mr. Allan, the Inspector of Nuisance, who is a most energetic, hard working officer. The outskirts, however, are in a bad state, heaps of rubbish are constantly being thrown there, with which it is difficult to deal. I support Dr. Sullivan's recommendation for an increase in the number of scavengers and the appointment of an assistant inspector of nuisance.

General Health.

Amongst European good; mortality of natives high, caused principally by underfeeding, personal neglect, exposure, and unwholesome liquors.

Zymotic Diseases:

None observed.

ELMINA.

Health of District.

General good. An epidemic of chicken-pox prevailed in the town and one case of small-pox (a Houssa).

Latrines.

Dr. Rat recommends, and I support his recommendation, that four more latrines be erected in Elmina, and that two (large) canoes be purchased for the purpose of emptying latrine buckets into the sea. As a consequence of the erection of these latrines extra scavengers will be required for Elmina. Indeed wherever such latrines are built an efficient number of scavengers will have to be employed in emptying the buckets.

GOLD COAST.

Officers Quarters

Advises that each quarter be supplied with a proper bedstead and mattress, and a good filter. I certainly support the latter suggestion, and recommend that in future the "Chamberland-Pasteur," one gallon filter, be the only one supplied to Government officers. The fact that this filter "sterelises" water, that the tubes can be cleaned in two minutes, and that it will work efficiently for years, even when filtering dirty water, has enabled Professor Gamgee to style it "a perfect filter."

Rain Gathering Areas.

To be cemented; this is essential.

Ventilation of Castle.

Dr. Rat means the basement rooms and cellars. These certainly require ventilation tunnels cut in them.

Main Drain.

A well should be sunk at head for flushing drain.

Water Supply.

Dr. Rat, in common with Dr. Sullivan, advises that the water of the Sweet River should be brought into Elmina by some means, and in the absence of technical knowledge on the subject I certainly advocate Dr. Sullivan's proposition in that connexion.

Intramural Sepulture.

Dr. Rat complains of it, and advocates legislation on the subject. It has been advocated for many years without result.

ADDAH.

Though carts have been supplied to Addah for sanitary purposes, Dr. Cole says that up to date there are neither scavengers nor convicts to work them. This will have to be altered, for, irrespective of the necessity for ordinary scavenging at Addah and Pram Pram, and as the number of convicts is usually so very small, labourers will have to be employed to empty the "drums" of the latrines which are about to be built there.

Dr. Cole asks for two inspectors of nuisance. I have visited the three Addahs, and consider such appointment necessary, but one man could easily keep the three places under supervision. A salary of 2*l.* per month would be sufficient.

Water Supply.

Dr. Cole asks for wells to be dug, two at Addah Beach and one at Addah Foah. He also urges the sinking of a well between the District Commissioner and his own quarters, for their special

use. Seeing how cheaply such wells could be dug by local service, and how necessary they are, I strongly recommend that they be sanctioned, for at the present both the Doctor and District Commissioner "are under obligation to the local merchants for their supply" of drinking water.

I may add that the ground water of Addah is wholesome, and, being a sandy soil, wells could be sunk at a trifling cost.

A Non-Dieted Hospital.

I am strongly of opinion that all the public dispensaries should have a fair sized hut attached to them for this use. In my annual report I shall bring the matter more fully before the Governor.

Being *non*-dieted, the first cost of building will practically be the only cost to Government, and such huts will certainly be a boon to the natives as well as a very great convenience to the medical officers in charge, who often receive application for treatment from patients suffering from grave diseases, especially surgical cases requiring constant supervision after operation.

Bridges.

The two small creeks separating Addah Beach from Big Addah are a great obstruction to traffic between the towns, and the people strongly urge the erection of a little bridge over each; being only about 18 feet broad, I should think strong plank bridges would suffice.

QUITTAH.

General Health.

Of Europeans not good, remittent fever of pernicious type prevailed amongst them, causing two deaths. Amongst the natives, however, the general health has been good.

The Town.

Clean. Dr. Freeman thinks that it is a mistake to ascribe to the "filthy habits of the people" insanitary conditions, which are simply the result of the want of sanitary appliances, and he considers it impossible to deal with the rubbish heaps and other accumulations of filth in the outskirts of the town without the aid of sanitary labour. It is undeniable that scavengers are required in this as in the other smaller stations.

Latrines.

Dr. Freeman thinks the present form of disposing of excreta by throwing it into the sea objectionable, as it fouls the foreshore, and proposes a trench latrine such as that which at present exists in Accra. This is the question of the day, trench *v.* bucket

GOLD COAST. latrines. The former was tried at Accra and found ineffectual, but that was owing entirely to the utter neglect of the Inspector of Nuisance, who could not be got even to obey orders.

The simplicity of the system it was that induced me to advocate it, but viewing the matter from all points I confess that the bucket system has many obvious advantages over that of the trench.

Roads (Streets)

In the town, being composed of loose, dry sand, are unpleasant to walk on, and owing to its radiation of heat in day time renders the air oppressive and sultry. Dr. Freeman advocates the planting of Bahama grass, in every sense an excellent idea.

Dispensary.

Attendance fairly numerous, especially in surgical cases. Absence of a hospital hut source of great inconvenience, especially in the treatment of Houssas and police.

The Fort.

Sanitary condition satisfactory; a second tank required. The whole place is in a state of utter dilapidation, especially officers' quarters, and I will add that these are the most neglected quarters of any I have yet seen on the Coast.

AXIM.

Dr. Allan dismisses the subject of the sanitary condition of Axim, by saying that the town, roads, and adjacent towns are clean.

P.S.—I may remark that the above cannot be considered a précis in the true sense, as, by his Excellency's instructions, remarks of my own are frequently added.

(Signed) J. D. MCCARTHY,
Chief Medical Officer.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

SANITARY REPORT ON ACCCRA FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 1887.

THE following are the subjects which call for consideration from a sanitary point of view, and which have from time to time been made the subject of report:—

(i.) Agriculture.
(ii.) Water supply.
(iii.) Latrines.
(iv.) Domiciliary sepulture.
(v.) The pig nuisance.
(vi.) The removal of refuse.
(vii.) The cactus forest.

2. Of these subjects two are of such a nature that legislation is required, viz., the pig nuisance and domiciliary sepulture; one, namely agriculture, has been already taken in hand by the Executive, and as it is made a subject for the consideration of a commission any remarks from me on the subject are unnecessary. The remaining four subjects are (*a*) water supply; (*b*) latrines; (*c*) removal of refuse; and (*d*) the cactus forest.

3. *Water Supply.*

In the last week of September a reservoir capable of holding 2½ million gallons of water was completed, but it has been practically in use by the people throughout the quarter, and the daily procession of water carriers between this reservoir and Accra amply testifies the appreciation of the natives. As great and as decided an advance as the construction of this reservoir undoubtedly is, it cannot be considered to be a final settlement of the question.

I would suggest that a topographical survey be made of the country to the north of Accra with a view to taking this matter thoroughly in hand by either damming up some of the valleys, thus converting them into reservoirs, or by bringing into the town by means of pipes the water of the Secoom, which it will be seen from Dr. McCarthy's report is "safe to drink after filtration." (Blue Book, C.–5071.)

(*b.*) The latrines at present in use are situated in the north of the town, and are practically trench latrines. These trench latrines do not appear to be much used; one reason may be that the only seat is a beam like the bannister of a stair case, which is certainly not comfortable; and again the trench system lends itself to carelessness on the part of the scavengers, who, if not constantly watched, are apt to lay on the dry earth at intervals of three, four, or more days without being detected.

I would suggest that these trenches be abandoned, and that latrines capable of holding 18 to 20 seats be erected; the utensils to be metal drums. Each latrine to have a dry earth room attached, and to be attended to by two scavengers.

GOLD COAST.

The night soil removed from the latrines twice daily should be carted out and transferred to trenches dug some two or three miles out of the town, and for this purpose a light tramway such as that now laid down between Victoriaborg and Accra would be of great value.

(*c.*) The refuse of West African towns is indeed very little, and the major part of it is capable of being burnt. Dust bins are used as receptacles, but these are not much used by the people, and if used are soon invaded by pigs which roam about at large.

(*d.*) The cactus forest has disappeared; but not only within the town itself, but in its immediate neighbourhood, are plots o ground which are not legally "open spaces," "gardens," or "yards," hence there is no means in the existing state of the law to have these plots cleared of bush. The Public Health Ordinance requires that all owners and occupiers of "gardens" or "yards" shall keep such free of bush, dirt, weeds, &c., but as these plots of ground are not "gardens" or "yards" the Ordinance does not apply, and such plots serve the people for latrines. It is unfortunate that the evident intention of the legislature should be thwarted by the sequence of words employed, and I believe the matter has only to be pointed out to be rectified; but till then there is nothing for it but to put up with the existing nuisance.

Health Matters.

The general health during the quarter has been good. The severe outbreak of malaria which characterised the latter half of the last quarter completely died away in July. The health of the natives so far as can be judged from the class of cases applying for treatment at the Colonial Hospital has been good. During the yam feast two cases of chicken-pox were reported, but so far as I am aware the disease has not spread, there being only one other case since then.

Live Stock.

The health of horses, inclusive of 11 brought down during the quarter, has been very good, no deaths or illness occurring. Amongst the pigs there has been in some quarters of the town some illness attended with considerable emaciation, but any interest taken on such a subject by a medical officer is regarded with suspicion by the natives, and all attempts made by me to make inquiries have been thwarted.

(Signed) C. H. EYLES,
Assistant Surgeon.

Accra, 12 October 1887.

Sanitary Report for the Quarter ending 30th September 1887.

Since writing the report for the June quarter of the present year, this district has been favoured with the inspection of the Chief Medical Officer, whose sanitary views entirely coincided with mine.

Winnebah is sadly in need of latrines; 10 of these commodities would be ample for the requirements of the town, if they consisted each of 16 drums partitioned equally for male and female, the colour of the paint being the mark distinction.

To complete this work at least 12 scavengers should be employed for emptying the latrines, under the control and supervision of an inspector of nuisance. Winnebah is a larger town than Axim, but up to this she has never [been] possessed of an inspector of nuisance; the duties of this office have devolved on the District Commissioner, whose time is so fully engaged, that in order to superintend the work his health must be somewhat undermined. In my humble opinion therefore an inspector of nuisance should be appointed.

From time to time the merchants have complained to the District Commissioner of the annoyance and loss they sustain through pigs, which are permitted to perambulate the town in a most promiscuous manner. Apart from destroying the bags of kernels, &c. placed on the beach for exportation, pigs' dung is to be noticed almost everywhere; to obviate this nuisance I humbly suggest that the section of the Town Police and the Public Health Ordinance relating to the stying of pigs be rapidly and rigidly enforced.

During the visit of the Chief Medical Officer certain sites were chosen for the sinking of wells, viz., three in Ayatiadi, two in Ayepay Street, and two in the north of the town.

These wells should be sunk at least 16 feet deep with high copings, the surrounding area being free from filth and rubbish. The places chosen have at present shallow wells, the water of which has been taken to head-quarters for analysis.

Another improvement which is greatly needed is the formation of two drains, one in Ayepay Street, the other from Abousumah to the fort; at present the rainfall being considerable the roads are washed away from want of proper support.

The total strength of the Gold Coast constabulary at this station is 47, and is composed of 25 Houssas and 22 Fanti police. The health of these men continues favourable; their principal ailment during this quarter has been *filaria medinensis*.

The attendances at the dispensary continue to increase, the principal maladies being ulcers (simple and specific), filaria medinensis, sacbies, rheumatism, and malarial fevers.

The general health of the town appears to have been satisfactory. There have been few deaths, and these only among the natives.

In conclusion I beg most humbly to submit the following points for the information of his Excellency the Governor:—I. The

Gold Coast.

necessity of having an inspector of nuisance; II. the construction of latrines; III. the sinking of wells; IV. the formation of drains. The carrying out of these ideas would be conferring a great boon to the health and prosperity of Winnebah.

(Signed) J. Spilsbury Smith,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon,
In Medical Charge.

Medical Department, Winnebah,
30 September 1887.

Sanitary Report on the Station of Cape Coast for the Quarter ending 30th September 1887.

Geology.

The hills which immediately surround Cape Coast are for the most part of a ferruginous nature, combined with salts of potash and magnesia, and are to a great extent covered by coarse stunted vegetation. The town lies in a kind of semicircle, the hills forming the arc and the foreshore the diameter.

Climate.

Although no regular meteorological observations have been taken at the station, still I am able to state from personal knowledge that the thermometer did not stand above 75° Fahr. in the shade during the quarter. The humidity has been very considerable, ranging, I should say, between 75 and 80 per cent. of saturation as an average, until the sun had risen high. This has had an enervating and relaxing effect on the European population.

Vegetation and Botany.

The forest has disappeared, no doubt by the hand of man, to supply the want of building materials and fuel, no attempt having been made at replanting, and its disappearance has had a visible effect on the rainfall. The fruits and vegetables obtainable are but few. There is a fine field for botany. My late colleague, Mr. J. W. Rowland, has from time to time collected some fine specimens. I have observed nearly all the natural order of solanaceæ abound here and many of the leguminosæ. But little is known of the vegetable poisons used by the natives. I believe strophanthus is largely used by the interior tribes for poisoning arrows. The cultivation of trees (the flamboia I would recommend) in the streets of Cape Coast would be a great benefit in two ways, rendering an agreeable shade from the glare and would add to the appearance of the place. The eucalyptus and sunflower ought to be cultivated from a sanitary point of view.

Animal Products.

The extremely small amount of these render the diet defective and monotonous to the European. Beasts of burden are unknown at this station.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Their construction and sanitary condition have been so repeatedly described, that it would be superfluous for me to do so here.

Water Supply.

As at almost all stations on the Gold Coast, it is derived from the rainfall stored in tanks. It is of good quality, and when filtered, all that can be desired, but it is only sufficient for the demands of the official population. The water stored in the new tank has not been handed over to any official here for distribution, but I presume it is to be kept as reserve supply. An analysis of the new tank water was made by the Chief Medical Officer while on his tour of inspection at this station, and it was pronounced by him of good quality. The poorer classes of natives have to depend on the Cottah Crabbah wells for their supply, and it is of very brackish nature, and not sufficient for their demands. In my sanitary report of Elmina, for the year 1885, I suggested that the water of the Sweet River be utilised as a supply to that station by means of large windmill pumps, and I think the same might be done for Cape Coast from the same source. I cannot help remarking that in a country like this, (in) which, from its nature, water power is impossible to be applied, and from its very moist atmosphere steam-machinery would be so difficult to be kept in order, that a natural force like the strong and regular winds which blow here should be turned to advantage.

Public Latrines

These are well appreciated by the natives, and their good effect is visible to a great extent from the improved sanitary condition which parts of the town now present. There are many more latrines required. I can strongly urge that 12 more be constructed for men and the same number for women, with eight buckets in each. The Chief Medical Officer has selected sites for six, and I have selected sites for the remaining six.

Public Slaughter-houses

are much required. The private slaughter-houses which at present exist are not even licensed.

Drainage.

Even within my short connexion (nearly two years) with the Colony I have seen marked improvement in its sanitation. The

GOLD COAST. Cape Coast drainage has been an immense advantage, but a system of flushing these drains is still wanting during the dry season. A reservoir might be constructed at the head of the main drain for this purpose. Its construction, however, is a matter for the Public Works Department to consider.

Cemeteries.

The European cemetery is clean and well kept. As the old native cemetery was overcrowded a site for a new one is now being cleaned on the Elmina road, between the "Salt Pond" and the military rifle range.

Town Refuse.

Here as in many other parts of the world its disposal is a difficult problem. The town itself is kept clean, but the outskirts are far from what could be desired. The tendency is to collect the unsanitary débris of all kinds just outside the town, so that when the land breeze sets in, their fœtid aroma is wafted over the town to the ill-effects and discomfort of the population. The natives render sanitation no easy matter, as it is looked on by them more as a restraint than an assistance, and therefore consider themselves bound in no way to help towards its good, but rather obstruct its being carried out. The only means of disposing of this refuse is by burning or burying it, and to do this with effect, the sanitary staff must be increased by many labourers and an assistant inspector of nuisances.

Public Health.

The health of the Europeans was much better than during the preceding quarter, when the mortality was very high here, as at other stations. The specific poison which emanates from the soil that we have by mutual consent designated "malaria," and as Sir Joseph Fayrer remarks "is best known by its results," is the cause of almost all European mortality, especially so when it attacks a subject in whom previous organic disease has been established, even to a slight degree. Although no statistics are kept, as there is no system of death registration or of census, still I believe the mortality amongst the natives during the quarter was high, the predisposing causes in many cases being under-feeding, neglect, exposure, and unwholesome liquors.

Zymotic Disease.

No cases under my observation during the quarter.

(Signed) F. W. SULLIVAN,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

Dr. RAT to CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

QUARTERLY SANITARY REPORT.

SIR, Elmina, October 10, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report as follows on the Elmina district for the quarter ending 30th September 1887.

The health of the district was, generally speaking, good during the past quarter. A mild epidemic of chicken-pox prevailed in the town during August and September, and a newly enlisted member of the Houssa Constabulary suffered from small-pox.

1. Four more latrines are required for Elmina.

2. Two canoes should be purchased for the purpose of emptying the latrine vessels into the sea.

3. The number of scavengers, six at present, should be increased to 12.

4. A female nurse should be employed at the Elmina hospital, one of the two labourers being discharged, if necessary, and his wages transferred to her.

5. The quarters of every European officer in the Castle should be furnished with a proper bedstead and mattress, and a good filter.

6. The rain-gathering areas at the Castle should be smoothly cemented.

7. The ventilation of the Castle by tunnels driven through its eastern and western walls should be effected without delay.

8. The main drain of the town should discharge into a reservoir, from which the water should be pumped into the sea.

9. The possibility of turning one of the rivers in the neighbourhood of Elmina, so as to bring potable water to within easy distance of the town, should be considered.

10. The report that the Elmina people bury their dead in the houses of relatives and friends in the neighbouring village of Bantimah should be inquired into by the legal authorities, and the custom, if it exists, abolished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. NUMA RAT,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

To the Chief Medical Officer,
Accra.

Gold Coast.

Dr. Cole to Chief Medical Officer.

Sanitary Report on Addah Station for the Quarter ending September 30, 1887.

Public Dispensary, Addah,
October 8, 1887.

Sir,

During the quarter ending September 30th, 1887, I have the honour to state that the total number of patients treated at this station was 806 (eight hundred and six), of which 228 (two hundred and twenty-eight) were new cases, 141 (one hundred and forty-one) males and 87 (eighty-seven) females, and 578 (five hundred and seventy-eight) old cases, 362 (three hundred and sixty-two) males, and 216 (two hundred and sixteen) females.

I visited the Pram Pram and Volta districts twice each during the quarter, when I attended the Government officials and the other inhabitants who applied for medical aid, made sanitary inspections of the gaols, police barracks, and the towns and villages.

The roads, &c. in these districts are well kept. The sanitary condition of the districts under my charge is fairly good; much improvement, however, can be done if scavengers were employed by the Government, especially in the Addah districts. About two months ago two very good and expensive carts for sanitary purposes were supplied for the use of this station from England, but at the moment of my writing this report I am sorry to say that there is not a single convict in the whole district to work them; the result is that filth, rubbish, &c. are allowed to accumulate in various parts of the town from the want of men to perform the work. The people are doing their very best to clean the town, and have now come to realise, to a great degree, the importance of carrying out hygienic rules; but notwithstanding my constant personal supervision permanent results will never be attained if the means by which the station can be worked efficiently are not provided.

There is no inspector of nuisances in the district. In my report of January of this year I called attention to this fact, and urged the appointment of one.

Recommendations.

I beg respectfully to recommend that two inspectors of nuisances be appointed; one to be stationed at Addah proper (Addah Beach and Addah Foah), and the other at Big Addah.

2. The appointment of scavengers for Addah Foah, Addah Beach, and Big Addah. Big Addah, I may mention, is about four miles from the Addah Beach. It is a very important and thickly populated place, and wants looking after.

3. That three wells be dug for the use of the general public.
2 for Addah Beach.
1 „ Addah Foah.

This service can easily be done locally with a small expenditure of money.

4. That two iron tanks, for storing a large quantity of rain water, be supplied to this district as soon as possible for the use of Government officials. At present the District Commissioner and the Medical Officer in charge are under obligation to the local mercantile firms for their supply of tank water.

The want of a suitable hospital at this station is now daily felt. During the quarter many serious cases, surgical (requiring operations) and medical, have come under my notice, which, I regret to say, I could not properly attend to as I would otherwise have done from the want of a proper hospital. The present dispensary, although doing a good work, is not only in a very bad locality, but there is not sufficient accommodation for the many who apply for admission.

The late District Commissioner, Mr. H. S. Bascom, now of the Colonial Secretariat, Accra (who, I may state, assisted me very much during his official residence here in sanitary inspections, &c., especially during my absence from Addah on visits of inspection to the Volta and Pram Pram), kindly placed a room at my disposal, which I have found useful for the admission of a few policemen, although at times I am reluctantly compelled to treat them in their own quarters. This gentleman has also, at my suggestion, very materially improved the sanitary condition of the police barracks by placing ventilating openings on the walls and changing the position of some of the doors and windows, to save the men from draught and the offensive smell emanating from the Vockoie pond, which is close by.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SYLVESTER J. COLE, M.B.,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

The Chief Medical Officer,
Victoriaborg, Accra.

Dr. COLE to CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.

Public Dispensary, Addah,
October 14, 1887.

SIR,

IN my Sanitary Report dated October 8th, for the quarter ending September 30th, 1887, I pointed out, among other matters, the advisability of appointing scavengers to assist in carrying out the sanitary duties of this large district. I beg respectfully to make the following suggestions, on the grounds of economy and efficiency, for your recommendation and the approval of his Excellency the Administrator.

1. That instead of appointing scavengers so called, 12 men (labourers) should be appointed to do the scavenger's duties, and act also as hammockmen when I make my monthly visits to Pram Pram and Akuse.

GOLD COAST.

2. At present it costs the Government about 8*l.* a month for hammockmen and carriers when I go to Pram Pram, and an average of 2*l.* for hammock travelling in the Volta district, making a total of about 10*l.* per month.

I would suggest that 12 men be appointed at 1*l.* a month and 5*s.* each for subsistence, making a total of 15*l.* per month, to act as hammockmen and scavengers. The amount of double work that will be done by these men will more than compensate for the difference of 5*l.*, which even will not be sufficient of itself to keep a proper staff of scavengers in this district.

3. In a short time, if I am rightly informed, I expect 10 latrines for this district, and I cannot see how they will be kept up without men to empty the buckets.

When I leave the district for Pram Pram and Akuse as many of the men as I think necessary will always be left to continue the sanitary duties here. Being permanently employed, the men will naturally take an interest in the work, and I may mention to you that, unlike other places in the Colony, hammockmen are very scarce in Addah; those who act as such are canoemen and servants, and when a steamer is in the roads or [they] are otherwise employed by their masters, I have at times found it most difficult, however pressing the engagement, to get their services.

I sincerely hope that this suggestion will meet with his Excellency's approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SYLVESTER J. COLE, M.B.,
Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

The Chief Medical Officer,
Victoriaborg, Accra.

SANITARY REPORT ON QUITTAH FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 1887.

Europeans.

THE general health of the Europeans in the district during the present quarter has been by no means good; malarial fevers, mostly conforming to the remittent type, have been very prevalent, and, although not, as a rule, severe, have terminated fatally in two instances, both of which were of the pernicious form attended with hœmoglobinuria.

With the exception, however, of febrile diseases owning a malarious origin, there has been very little sickness of a serious character among the European residents.

The Natives.

Here, as elsewhere on the coast, data as to the sanitary condition of the natives are extremely difficult to obtain, but from information incidentally gleaned it would appear that the district is considered by them to be a healthy one, and it is stated by some

intelligent natives of Accra who have settled here that diseases of a grave type are much less prevalent among the inhabitants of Quittah than among those of the former town. This entirely agrees with my own observations, as I have neither seen nor heard of any serious illness among the natives.

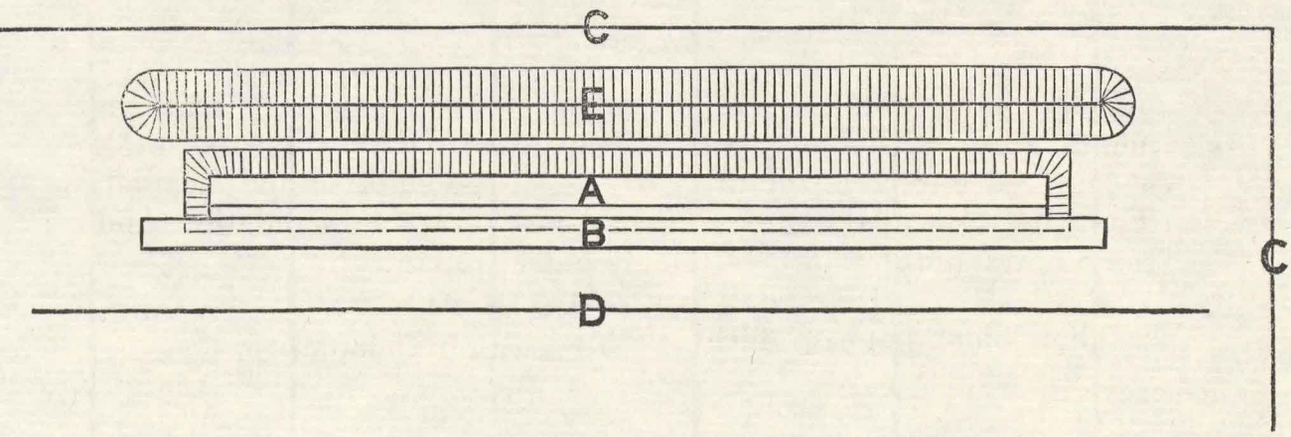
The Town.

Quittah is, for a West African town, fairly cleanly and well kept; the streets are of fair width, and the houses mostly present an orderly and decent appearance. There are several open spaces at the intersection of streets and elsewhere, and these have been planted with shade trees, which are both useful and ornamental. The general tendency of the natives is, I consider, towards order and cleanliness, and I regard it as a distinct mistake to ascribe to "the filthy habits of the people" insanitary conditions which are simply the result of the want of sanitary appliances; it is, I think, sufficiently manifest that the absence of any adequate means for the removal of excreta and such litter as is unavoidable must produce, as an inevitable consequence, cess pits, rubbish heaps, and nuisances of a like nature. Several of these rubbish heaps exist in different parts of the town, especially on the shore of the lagoon, facing the market place, in which situation they are peculiarly offensive by reason of the moisture in which they are constantly soaked. It is impossible for these to be removed at present, as the only labourers at the disposal of the District Commissioner are the prisoners, often only one or two in number, and these are barely sufficient for the daily emptying of the latrines.

The Latrines.

The public latrines are undoubtedly a great convenience to the natives and indirectly to the Europeans; the accommodation, however, which they afford is quite insufficient, and the present system of emptying the pans into the sea, entailing, as it necessarily does, pollution of the foreshore, is decidedly objectionable.

I venture to propose the form of latrine shown in the annexed sketch as being more easily managed, more effectual in the disposal of excreta, and more suited to the requirements of the natives.



A is a trench from 3 to 4 feet in depth; B is a plank for the natives to stand upon (some kind of support is necessitated by

GOLD COAST.

the yielding nature of the soil, and if seats are provided the natives stand upon them); C, D screens of palm leaf mats; E bank of earth thrown up during digging of trench, to be thrown in upon excreta.

Such a latrine might be constructed with very little trouble; a calabash or scoop might be placed in each latrine, so that each person after using it might throw a quantity of earth into the trench, and a new trench excavated every week or fortnight, as might be necessary, in a new situation.

These latrines might be erected in the waste land by the sea shore, and being far removed from any surface wells, no contamination of the water supply could result.

Roads.

The roads in the town are mostly composed of loose, dry sand, which in some cases has a substratum of swish, and which, besides being uncleanly and extremely unpleasant to walk upon, becomes greatly heated in the middle of the day, and radiating its heat to the superincumbent air, renders the latter sultry and oppressive. This, I believe, would be largely remedied by the planting of Bahama grass in the streets, and I am only waiting for a consignment from Accra to give this plan a trial.

The Lagoon.

The lagoon is at present unusually full, its waters, according to the statements of certain merchants who have resided here for several years, reaching a higher level than they have been known to attain for many years past; its shores are bordered by extensive marshes, but there are no tracts of bare mud exposed.

The Dispensary.

The attendances at the dispensary are fairly numerous, a large proportion consisting of minor surgical cases. The absence of a hospital is a source of great inconvenience, especially in the treatment of Houssas and police.

The Fort.

The condition of the fort is, in respect of its sanitary arrangements, quite satisfactory, with the exception that a second tank is required to enable the present one to be emptied and cleaned. The whole place is, however, in a state of utter dilapidation, and the officers' quarters are extremely out of repair.

(Signed) R. AUSTIN FREEMAN,
The Chief Medical Officer. Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

SANITARY REPORT ON AXIM, QUARTER ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 1887. GOLD COAST.

TOWN itself clean, also adjacent roads, with the towns situated thereon, in number 12; one of the roads runs to the left bank of the Ancobra River, about 4 miles; the other, leading to the right bank of the Prince's River, is about 17 miles. I found all the villages clean.

Dust bins have been established here, four in number, worked by one cart and two convicts daily.

I propose in the next quarter's report to give sanitation in detail with regard to the town, villages, roads, &c.

(Signed) W. ALLAN,
Assistant Surgeon.

No. 6.

Sir W. B. GRIFFITH to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle,
Accra, February 13, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state, for your information, that on the 20th December, shortly after my arrival here, I convened a public meeting which was numerously attended by the Kings of Accra and Christiansborg and their respective Chiefs, the Chiefs of James Town, the principal native and European merchants, and ministers of religion, together with the chief public officers.

2. I explained to the assembly the wishes of Her Majesty's Government which you were pleased to convey to me whilst in England and by Despatches to this Government, that for sanitary reasons, the pigs kept in Accra and Christiansborg should be removed from those places. I pointed out to the people the disadvantages and drawbacks attendant on keeping these animals in their densely populated towns, and that great sanitary improvement would follow their removal; that my instructions upon the matter were clear and precise, and that it was my intention to carry them out resolutely. I warned the people that if in one month from that date the pigs were not removed, as I then directed they should be, the law in regard to them would be strictly enforced. I pointed out to the people that at one time the question of providing styes for the pigs by the Government had been under consideration, but that it had been abandoned in consequence of difficulties which presented themselves, and therefore that they would have to make provision for keeping their pigs outside the limits fixed by law.

3. Within a week after the meeting the people commenced to remove their pigs; within a fortnight the number in the

GOLD COAST.

various towns had diminished from thousands to hundreds, and, at the expiration of the month, very few pigs remained to be dealt with.

4. On the 20th January persons who still kept pigs in Accra and Christiansborg were proceeded against by the police, with the result that in a very short time every pig was removed, as will be seen on reference to the enclosed copy of a letter from the District Commissioner of Accra. He alludes to Accra only, but the pigs have also been cleared out at Christiansborg.

5. A few days ago the Chief Medical Officer informed me that there was a sensible improvement in the quality of the air in Accra, and that he had never seen the town so clean as it hen was. This is due, partly to the removal of the pigs, and partly to the energetic exertions of Mr. Pagan, the Surveyor-General, who has paid great attention to the improvement of the town.

6. Shortly after the removal of the pigs the people began to commit nuisances, with the object, as I understood, of pointing out that the removal of the pigs was a mistake on the part of the Government, as they were useful as scavengers. I called the attention of the District Commissioner to the circumstance, and a few persons having been brought before him and fined the nuisance ceased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 6.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Accra, to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Commissioner's Office, James Town, Accra,
January 31, 1888.

SIR,

1. IN obedience to instructions received from his Excellency the Governor, I have the honour to inform you that the Town's Police and Public Health Ordinance has been put in force relative to the pig nuisance in Accra since the 20th instant.

2. I am glad to be able to inform you that this nuisance has abated, and there is not a pig to be seen in the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. WENTWORTH FORBES,
District Commissioner.

The Hon.
The Acting Colonial Secretary,
Victoriaborg.

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5	New Zealand - - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - - - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements - - -	„	1*s.* 4*d.*

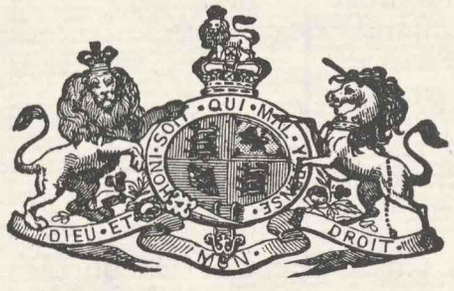
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 15.

GRENADA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249.–12.]

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3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	1888	1
9	Heligoland - - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements - -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	„	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands -	„	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	1

No. 15.

GRENADA.

[For previous Reports *see* 1886 [C.—5071]; 1885 [C.—4842]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4404]; 1882 [C.—4015]; 1881 [C.—3388].

Governor W. J. SENDALL to LORD KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Grenada, April 12, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Grenada Blue Book for 1887, together with a very full and clear report, which I have carefully examined, by Mr. Schooles.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Grenada,
SIR, March 31, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to submit my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1887.

Taxes, Duties, and Fees.

2. Several changes have taken place under this head. The *ad valorem* duty on imports was raised from 5 per cent., at which it stood in 1886, to 10 per cent. during the year under report.

The land tax on houses, stores, sheds, buildings, lots, and tenements, and the street tax in respect of houses situate in the various towns, previously payable to the general revenue of the Colony, have been handed over to the respective parochial boards.

To the parochial board of St. George's has also been handed over the tax on shipping under the St. George's Water Act, No. 191 of 23rd April 1877, and under Ordinance No. 4 of 1885, the harbour dues under Ordinance No. 2 of 1881, and the water rates under Act 191 before mentioned.

These taxes were formerly paid to the credit of general revenue, which has, however, been so far compensated for their loss by being relieved of the burden of maintaining several services, such as repairing streets, maintaining the waterworks, lighting and scavenging the town, &c., the expense of which is now defrayed by the parochial board.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The actual revenue of the Colony for 1887 was 46,743*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, and the estimate was 45,332*l.*, that of the previous year having been 42,634*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, and the estimate 42,941*l.*

GRENADA.

The comparative receipts in these years are shown in the table annexed.

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
Customs - - - -	21,574	27,550
Excise - - - -	7,171	5,223
Licenses - - - -	2,332	2,266
Stamps - - - -	2,505	2,952
Rates and taxes - - -	4,906	4,582
Miscellaneous receipts - -	4,146	4,170

The rise in the revenue from customs in 1887 is by no means merely attributable to the increase of the *ad valorem* duties, for though from this cause there should result an addition of 3,000*l.* to the revenue, the increase under the head of customs was almost 6,000*l.*, proving that the volume of trade was considerably larger and that the revenue under this head was increased from a more satisfactory cause than additional taxation only.

The revenue returns, showing as they do that the revenue received was over 1,000*l.* more than was estimated, are all the more satisfactory, seeing that a large and unexpected falling off, amounting to nearly 2,000*l.*, took place under the head of excise. 7,171*l.* was collected from this source in 1886, or 2,260*l.* less than the revenue under this head in 1885, and 7,000*l.* was the estimate for 1887, but only 5,223*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* was received. Some portion of this decay may be attributable to the gradual disappearance of the sugar cane in Grenada, but, in my opinion, the real cause is the wholesale smuggling which has hitherto defied suppression, for the consumption of rum by the population, from whatever source it is obtained, has assuredly not decreased. Under the new system of locked still caps and distillation in the presence of an Excise officer it is confidently anticipated that the leakage of receipts from illicit trade will disappear.

Rates and taxes also show a decrease, but this is simply attributable to the transference from general revenue to the parochial boards of this source of revenue in respect of houses, buildings, and lots situate within the boundaries of the several towns. Under the head of Stamps there was a satisfactory increase of 446*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* over the receipts for the previous year, showing the increased activity of business in the Colony during 1887.

4. The expenditure of the year was 44,804*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; in 1886 it was 44,900*l.* The estimated expenditure was 44,217*l.*, and it was, as will be seen from the foregoing figures, exceeded by about 600*l.* The chief items in which an excess of expenditure occurs over the votes on the estimates are: Pensions and gratuities, 180*l.*; hospitals and asylums, 228*l.*; rents, 68*l.*; works and buildings, 550*l.*;

postal services, 100*l.*; besides several services upon which expenditure was incurred but which could not be referred to any head under the estimates and for which special votes were taken from the Legislative Council; of these Jubilee grants consumed 117*l.*, loans to parochial boards 680*l.*, and the building of the fireproof room for the records of the Colony 314*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*

The net revenue of the year exceeded the actual expenditure, counting as expenditure loans to parochial boards and the sum put by each year as an insurance fund for public buildings, by about 1,900*l.*

Below is given a comparative statement of the expenditure for the years 1886 and 1887.

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
Establishment - - -	19,075	19,434
Pensions and gratuities - -	827	1,098
Hospitals and asylums - -	3,189	4,034
Rents - - - -	445	375
Works and buildings - -	3,044	2,062
Roads and bridges - - -	5,259	4,822
Postal service - - -	1,045	950
Education - - - -	2,932	3,002
Other services - - -	9,114	9,027

Financial Position.

5. The statement of assets and liabilities hereunder shows the financial position of the Colony at 31st December 1887.

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Cash in the treasurer's hands and in the Colonial Bank -	13,323	19	5	Due to Immigration Fund -	5,925	13	1
				„ Governor's Office Fund -	33	15	6
Cash and bills in Crown Agents' hands - - - -	3,845	3	0	„ insurance of Public Buildings Fund -	608	18	0
Amount in hands of immigration agent at Calcutta - -	63	10	11	„ interest and Sinking Fund for Public Works Loan - - -	1,042	15	8
Due by the St. George's Parochial Board - - -	1,050	0	0	„ Savings Bank - -	5,041	6	2
„ other parochial boards -	388	15	5	„ orders on Crown Agents, unexecuted - -	438	12	4
„ Tobago, balance of loan -	800	0	0	„ Crown Agents in connexion with Public Works Loan - -	17,500	0	0
„ out islands for maintenance of lunatics -	351	18	0	„ debenture holders in connexion with Public Works Loan - -	4,475	0	0
Excess of liabilities -	15,242	14	0				
Total - - -	35,066	0	9	Total - - -	35,066	0	9

GRENADA.

The excess of liabilities over assets is 15,242*l.*, but the liabilities include the sum of 21,975*l.* raised under the Public Works Loan Ordinance for the ultimate redemption of which by a sinking fund, and for the payment of interest due thereon during its currency, provision is made every year on the estimates. On the 31st December there was 1,042*l.* to the credit of this interest and sinking fund and provision to the extent of 1,500*l.* is made for the same service in the estimates of 1888.

Omitting the loan which is raised for special purposes, the repayment of which is not yet due, and for which ample provision is yearly made, the balance stands the other way, and the assets exceed the liabilities by about 6,700*l.*

Public Works.

6. A large amount of work was performed during the year by the Public Works Department.

Under the head of construction it will be found that 13¾ miles of road have been entirely reconstructed and metalled; of these 2¼ belong to the Belvedere Road, which leads over the mountains from Charlotte Town to the Grenville Road, and on this road three bridges and nine culverts were erected.

Eight miles were formed and metalled on the Grand Etang Road, including under this designation the whole length from St. George's to Grenville; nine culverts were built, the Birch Grove Causeway was underpinned and pointed, and in the fourth mile a length of 80 yards, having become dangerously narrow through landslips, was widened 12 feet by side cutting in rock 20 feet deep.

Three and a half miles were formed and metalled on the Tivoli Road, completing its reconstruction.

On the Gonyave Road, Perseverance Swamp, which has been a source of danger and complaint for years past, was successfully and effectively bridged and the coast road at La Potterie, which had been washed away, was restored and protected by a considerable addition to the sea wall.

7. Under the head of repairs and maintenance on high roads it is satisfactory to be able to state that good work has been done and that the complaints as to their condition which furnished the principal grievance but a year or two since can no longer with justice be made. Persons connected with the Island but resident away from it, whose visits are separated by intervals of a year or two at a time, have expressed their astonishment at the metamorphosis which has been affected in the condition of the high roads during the past three years. Two roads which were formerly bye-roads have been taken over as high roads and have thus become repairable by the Public Works Department.

Works and Buildings.

8. Government House was completed during the year, the work performed having almost amounted to the entire re-building

of the structure while additions of considerable importance were made, which had no existence formerly.

A strong fire-proof room for the safe keeping of the Colony's records was commenced and finished; a residence was erected on Richmond Hill for the curator of the Botanical Gardens; two new Government school-houses were built, one at Rivière Sallée and one at Grand Roy, both of which have been well attended since their opening.

Repairs of a more or less extensive character for the maintenance of buildings already in existence were effected in the following instances:—

The sergeant-major's cottage, Fort George, was floored and roofed anew and thoroughly painted and repaired, while a bed-room and bath-room were added.

St. Andrew's Hospital was repaired and a dead-house erected.

Carriacou Hospital.—A dispensary and dispenser's quarters were erected, and a large iron tank removed from St. George's and put up here, while spouting was fixed round all the buildings.

Post Office.—Important alterations, which have effected a great improvement, were carried out here, and a set of Yale lock boxes erected, all of which were immediately taken by the public.

Richmond Hill Prison.—The punishment cells were re-constructed and ventilated, and a new oven and chimney were erected.

House Surgeon's Quarters.—A verandah and bath-room were added and the house painted inside.

Yaws Hospital.—General repairs were effected at this institution and all the buildings thoroughly colour-washed.

Fort Cottage.—General repairs were executed at this building.

Colony Hospital.—A store-room was fitted up in the basement, the old self-acting waterclosets, which were always getting out of order, were removed and Macfarlane's troughs substituted. The sewer which passed behind the house surgeon's quarters was condemned and the sewage turned into the sewer at the south end of the hospital. The whole building was limewashed.

The Government buildings on the Carenage were all colour-washed.

The old coal-yard jetty, which projected into the Carenage and was unsightly and the cause of great inconvenience to vessels and boats coming in and approaching the wharf, was removed, the old piles having to be pulled up.

The warehouses were supplied with iron gratings to all the ground floor windows and the floor of the south wing of No. 2 warehouse was strengthened. The boat-house for the Government barge was removed and re-erected in a more suitable place, with an addition making it sufficiently commodious to shelter the police boat as well.

A boat-house was erected at Carriacou for the revenue officer's boat there. Many other trifling repairs were executed, the details of which it is unnecessary and would be tedious to refer to.

The cost of road maintenance to the general revenue was 4,117*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*

The cost of road construction under the loan was 5,651*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, Repairs to public buildings involved an expenditure of 1,031*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, being 31*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* beyond the amount appropriated for that purpose upon the estimates.

The amount spent in the erection and construction of public works other than roads, the cost of which had been authorised under the Public Works Loan Ordinance, was 4,340*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*

Legislation.

9. The under-mentioned Ordinances were passed and came into force during the year:—

No. 1. The Appropriation Ordinance, 1887.
No. 2. The Licenses Ordinance, 1884, Amendment Ordinance.
No. 3. The Purchase of Cocoa Ordinance, 1887.
No. 4. The Parochial Boards and Regulation of Towns Amendment Ordinance, 1887.
No. 5. The Loan to Parochial Boards Ordinance.
No. 6. The Public Officers Security Ordinance.
No. 7. The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1886.
No. 8. The Building Societies Ordinance.
No. 9. The Queen's Jubilee Holiday Ordinance.
No. 10. The Magistrate's Judgments Appeal Ordinance.
No. 11. The Amending Road Ordinance.
No. 12. The Libel Amendment Ordinance.
No. 13. The Customs Ordinance.
No. 14. The Treasury Amending Ordinance.
No. 15. The Weights and Measures Ordinance.
No. 16. The Coroners Ordinance.
No. 17. The Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 18. The Import Duties Amending Ordinance.
No. 19. The Export Duty Amending Ordinance.
No. 20. The Ad valorem Duties Ordinance.
No. 21. The Liquor License Ordinance.
No. 22. The Excise Ordinance.
No. 23. The Magistrates Judgments Appeal (Amending) Ordinance.
No. 24. The Bankruptcy Ordinance.

It will be seen from the above that a great deal of important legislation took place during the year.

The customs laws were thoroughly revised and amended, and a lengthy and important Ordinance consolidating the various enactments on the subject scattered throughout the statute book was passed.

Important changes in the tariff were made by the Import Duties Amending Ordinance, while by the new Excise Ordinance the duty on locally manufactured rum was considerably lessened and the system of still caps and distillation in the presence of an Excise officer was adopted.

For the first time, by the Bankruptcy Ordinance, a remedy has been provided for the grave wrong which was frequently perpetrated upon creditors by the preference given to a chief and favoured creditor by an insolvent trader.

Councils.

10. An addition was made to the number of members composing the Executive Council by the appointment of Mr. W. H. Hyndman Jones, the Police Magistrate of the Southern District; this gentleman was also appointed to a seat at the Legislative Council, which became vacant by the retirement of Mr. John Semper.

Mr. C. Messervy, the Director of Public Works, having resigned his seat at the Legislative Council, Mr. Edward Drayton, the Registrar of the Supreme Court, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Mr. W. S. Comissiong was absent from the Colony for 2½ months; during his absence his place was temporarily filled by Mr. F. Gurney, and during the absence of Dr. Orgias, the Colonial Surgeon, on leave, his place was filled by Dr. P. F. Macleod.

Civil Establishment.

11. There were but few changes in the establishment during the year. During the continued absence of the Governor, from September in the year 1886, while the repairs of Government House were in progress, Captain Maling, the Colonial Secretary, administered the Government until the 1st May, when he left the Colony on leave of absence; Mr. Schooles, the Attorney-General, was then appointed to act for the Colonial Secretary and to administer the Government, and he continued in the performance of those duties until the re-transfer of headquarters to Grenada on the 17th November, when his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief resumed the administration of the Government. Mr. Schooles continued to act for the Colonial Secretary, whose leave extended beyond the year.

Mr. W. H. Hyndman Jones was, on the 7th April, appointed to the Police Magistracy of the Southern District, which became vacant on the promotion of Mr. Kingdon to British Guiana. Mr. W. Low, who had been acting in that office during Mr. Kingdon's absence at St. Vincent, was transferred to a magistracy in St. Lucia. Mr. R. T. Wright, Chief of Police, was absent on leave from 20th March to the 17th November; his duties during this period were performed by Captain R. Jukes Hughes, the provisional Protector of Immigrants.

Dr. Boyd was appointed, on the 1st January, house surgeon of the Colony Hospital, which post had been vacant since the transfer of Dr. Halton to the medical charge of No. 2 District in October 1885. Dr. Orgias, the Colonial Surgeon and Health Officer, was absent on leave from the 10th July to 24th October; his duties as Colonial Surgeon were performed by Dr. Macleod

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the Medical Officer of District No. 1, while Dr. Boyd performed the duties of the health officer.

Mr. Semper, the auditor, was absent on leave from the 8th August to the 31st October; Mr. Collymore, chief clerk to the Colonial Secretary performed the duties of the auditor during this period, while Mr. Munro, the Treasury accountant, acted as chief clerk to the Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Smith, the harbour master, performed the duties of the Treasury accountant.

Securities of Public Officers.

12. At the annual inspection of the securities of those public officers who are required to enter into bond, which was held on 29th January 1887, the bonds were found to be in due form and the sureties thereto were persons good and sufficient for the amounts for which they were bound.

Pensions.

13. Mr. W. B. Markson, late storekeeper, was granted an annual pension of 54*l.*, dating from the 1st January 1887. The total amount expended under this head in 1887 was 1,098*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

Population.

14. The estimated population at the end of the year was 48,346, of which number 23,158 were males and 25,188 were females, the increase during the year being 982, consisting of 529 males and 453 females.

The following table shows the increase of population in each parish as compared with 1886:—

	1886.	1887.
St. George - - - -	182	201
St. John - - - -	123	109
St. Mark - - - -	81	66
St. Patrick - - -	161	131
St. Andrew - - -	263	239
St. David - - - -	77	74
Carriacou - - - -	53	102

The maximum increase took place in the last quarter of the year, when 304 persons were added to the population, the minimum increase being in the second quarter, when the excess of births over deaths was but 208. It must, however, be borne in mind that no record is kept of immigration or of emigration, except as

regards indentured East Indian immigrants; the figures shown above are therefore subject to correction from the cause alluded to. When the census of 1881 was taken it was found that the population was less than was estimated by the Registrar-General, and the compiler of the census stated that he had reason to believe that the discrepancy was owing to the fact that the emigration exceeded the immigration, as the disparity was greatest in those parishes from which emigration chiefly takes place.

Marriages.

15. The number of marriages which took place in 1887 was 254, being one less than in 1886, when 255 were recorded. Of these 102 were performed by clergy of the Church of England, 128 by Roman Catholics, 15 by the Wesleyans, and 9 by the Presbyterians. The largest number took place in the quarter ended 31st March.

Births.

16. The births registered in 1887 amounted to 2,128; this is the largest number which has been recorded since the passing of the Registration Act in 1865. The number of births registered in 1866 was 1,464. The number of male births registered in 1887 was 1,096 and of female births 1,032. In 1886 the number of males born was 1,019, and of females 954 = 1,973. The increase in 1887 as compared with 1886 was 155, composed of 77 males and 78 females.

The birth rate was 4·49; in 1886 it was 4·25 per cent.

Illegitimacy.

The illegitimate births registered during the year numbered 1,135 as against 1,051 in the previous year. The per-centage of illegitimate births was 53·33, or 1 in 0·92, as compared with 53·27, or 1 in 0·88, in the previous year; this rate, although high, does not compare unfavourably with those of the neighbouring islands.

Baptisms.

18. The number of baptisms during the year was 2,063, an excess of 24 as compared with the previous year; 2,007 of the number were baptisms of infants, while in 56 cases they were those of adults; 1,010 were infant and 30 adult males, while 997 infant and 26 adult females were baptised. They were divided amongst the several denominations as follows:—

Church of England - - -	786
Roman Catholics - - - -	1,110
Wesleyans - - - -	101
Presbyterians - - - -	66
	2,063

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Deaths.

19. The number of deaths registered was 1,146, being 113 more than in the previous year; of the 1,146, 567 were males and 579 were females. The death rate for the year was 2·42, made up of—

Children under 1 year - -	0·85 per cent.
From 1 to 15 years - -	0·58 „
Adults - - - -	0·99 „
Total - - -	2·42

An Ordinance was passed during the year which provides that coroners' inquests shall be held to inquire into the causes of death of infants under two years of age in cases where a certificate, signed by a medical officer or a registered midwife, of the cause of death is not produced. It is hoped that this enactment will be productive of good and tend to check the high rate of infant mortality which now obtains.

The figures exhibited in this year's return of the vital statistics of the Colony confirm the statement made in last year's report that the maximum number of births and deaths takes place in the last quarter of the year, while the minimum of both takes place in the second quarter, the births registered in the quarter ended 31st December 1887, being 639 and the deaths 335, while in the quarter ended 30th June 1887 only 453 births and 245 deaths were recorded.

Burials.

20. The number of burials recorded by the various religious denominations was 636. The discrepancy between the number of deaths and that of burials is owing to the fact that in the country districts numbers of persons are buried without any burial service being performed, and thus there is no record of the event, while at the same time the death is duly reported to the district registrar.

Savings Bank.

21. A comparative statement is given hereunder, showing the progress of the Savings Bank during the past three years. A large increase in the number of depositors and in the amount deposited will be seen to have taken place in each year as compared with the preceding one, showing how useful to the general public, and how much valued, the institution has become. Moreover, it is now being made use of especially by the class for whose benefit it was chiefly designed—that is, small depositors. The figures give evidence of this, for whereas there were only 33 more depositors in 1886 than in 1885, the amount was larger by nearly 1,000*l.* In 1887, however, the number of depositors was 147 more than it had been in 1886, while the amount deposited only exceeded that of 1886

by about 546*l.* The balance in the hands of this institution grows steadily; it has, in fact, doubled in two years; the balance carried over at the end of 1885 was 2,570*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*; at the end of 1887 it was 5,041*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* 4,000*l.* of Savings Bank money was remitted during the year to the Crown Agents to be invested in safe securities.

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount Deposited.	Interest to Depositors paid from General Fund.	Amount withdrawn.	Balance.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1885 -	163	2,262 19 0	46 15 2	1,918 18 3	2,570 4 8
1886 -	196	3,209 15 1	62 7 4	2,180 11 9	3,661 15 4
1887 -	343	3,756 13 10	69 7 10	2,446 10 10	5,041 6 2

Imports and Exports.

22. The value of the imports for 1887 was 143,185*l.* as against 120,337*l.* for 1886 and 138,105*l.* for 1885. The increase is due to the fact that the cocoa crop was an exceedingly good one and the purchasing power of the general mass of the population consequently greater. In an island of small proprietors, all of them resident, and each of whom grows the staple product, an increase of the crop results necessarily and at once in an increase of the imports.

23. The exports for the same period amounted to 217,949*l.* as against 180,691*l.* for the previous year and 178,721*l.* for 1885. The above value is far from being excessive; indeed, it is fair to say it is an under estimate. Of the above 217,949*l.* the value of the cocoa alone exported is 185,412*l.*, calculating it at 3*l.* a cwt., and this is most certainly too low a figure at which to place the average price which ruled during the year 1887 for our staple product. 3*l.* 5*s.* would not be too high at which to fix the average price; and as the amount of cocoa exported was 61,804 cwt., 5*s.* additional would add 15,000*l.* to the value of the exports for the year. The amount of cocoa exported from Grenada during the three past years has been 61,804 cwt., 51,979 cwt., and 49,131 cwt. for 1887, 1886, and 1885 respectively. The export of spices has not been so large as during 1886, though considerably larger than in 1885, the amount in pounds weight for the three years being 155,324 lbs. for 1887, 179,984 lbs. for 1886, and 110,768 lbs. for 1885. Prices, however, for these products were much better during 1887 than they had been for some time previously and the value of the commodity was greater although the quantity was less.

The export of sugar, which fell to almost nothing—viz., 1,540 cwt.—in 1886, rose again last year to 3,840 cwt. This has

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ceased to be a staple in Grenada, although sufficient is grown to provide for local consumption, and it is exceedingly remunerative to those who keep a small area in sugar cultivation. $12 a barrel is constantly obtained for sugar sold locally, and as eight barrels go to the hogshead the price obtained is not far short of 20*l.* a ton.

24. It is interesting to observe that nearly the whole of the increase in imports is to be found as coming from the United Kingdom. The increased value of imports for the year under review is exactly 22,847*l.*, while the increase in the imports from the United Kingdom is represented by the following figures; 53,552*l.* in 1886, 73,306*l.* in 1887. There has been a slight falling off, amounting to about 1,300*l.*, in the value of imports from British Colonies and an increase of about 4,300*l.* in the imports from foreign countries, which, however, really means from the United States.

The increase in the value of exports in 1887 on those of 1886 is, in round numbers, 37,000*l*; of this, 25,000*l.* found its way to the United Kingdom and 12,000*l.* to France. The increase in the shipments to France is very remarkable, having trebled as compared with the previous year. This arises from the fact that the French market is often the best in which to dispose of cocoa, and shippers of late nearly always secure what is called "the Havre option," which means that the conveying steamer is bound to unload the produce either at Havre or London just as on arrival the one or the other shall prove to be the better market.

Shipping.

25. The total number of sailing vessels entered during the year was 419 with an aggregate tonnage of 12,262; their crews amounted to 1,719 men.

During the preceding year 450 sailing vessels entered with an aggregate tonnage of 12,290 and with crews numbering 1,665.

The total number of sailing vessels cleared amounted to 427, with a tonnage of 12,534 and crews 1,830, while during the previous year 471 vessels cleared, with a tonnage of 12,646 and crews 1,804.

The total number of steam vessels entered was 99, with tonnage amounting to 153,756 and crews 3,158.

During 1886 105 steam vessels entered, with a tonnage of 169,511 and crews 3,420.

The total number of steam vessels cleared during the year was 63, with a gross tonnage of 104,425 and crews numbering 2,037.

The clearances of steam vessels in 1886 numbered 62, with a tonnage of 103,891 and crews 2,009.

Of the 99 steam vessels which entered the nationalities were:—

United Kingdom - - - -	98
Norway - - - - -	1
Total - - -	99

Of the 419 sailing vessels which entered the nationalities were :—

United Kingdom - - - -	2
Norway - - - - -	1
Holland - - - - -	1
British West Indies - - - -	393
United States of America - - -	8
Dutch West Indies - - - -	6
British North America - - -	3
Venezuela - - - - -	5
Total - - -	419

Education.

26. Twenty-eight primary schools were in operation at the close of the year 1887 ; of these six were Government, seven were Anglican, ten were Roman Catholic, and five were Wesleyan. Two of the Anglican schools in Carriacou, which had fallen to a very low condition as regards attendance, were taken over by the Government during the year. Since the change of management a remarkable improvement has taken place in the numbers on the roll. This is no doubt due to the better system in operation, but must also in a great measure be attributed to the improved circumstances of the Island, due to the propitious seasons which have prevailed there during the past two years.

Two new Government schools have been opened in Grenada during the same period, one at Grand Roy in St. John's parish, in the month of June, and one at Rivière Sallée in St. Patrick's in the month of October. The attendance at both these schools has been remarkably good, and they have supplied an evident want in the localities where they have been established.

The Roman Catholic school at Beaulieu, which had been in existence for several years, was added to the list of assisted schools.

The average number on the roll for the year was 3,729 against 3,141 for the previous year, showing an increase of 588, and the average annual attendance was 2,001 as against 1,570 in 1886, showing an increase of 431. The school fees paid by the children in attendance amounted to 479*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* as against 432*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* in 1886.

The Inspector of Schools states that in the 24 examinations which have been held at the date of writing this report a marked improvement has been shown in the general intelligence of the children submitted for examination and in the quality of the work performed in the extra subjects taken up.

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The supply of teachers is furnished chiefly from the neighbouring colonies, there being no training school in Grenada. No difficulty, however, occurs in supplying vacancies as they arise. At the teachers' examination held on the 19th to 24th December nine candidates presented themselves. Only three, however, passed the test in dictation.

27. Secondary education receives the support of the Government in the shape of a subsidy, which is given to the St. George's Grammar School, and which in 1887 amounted to 355*l.* This school, from which great results were at one time expected, has not been supported by parents with children to educate to the extent which those who started it very reasonably anticipated and which it appears to deserve.

The amount spent from the public revenues upon primary education during the year was 2,534*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

Gaols and Prisoners.

28. The male prisoners are confined in the gaol at Richmond Hill, the females in the old town gaol in St. George's. These institutions are about a mile and a half distant from one another and when other works of more importance have been got out of the way it will be a desirable improvement if a suitable building is erected adjoining the prison at Richmond Hill for the accommodation of the female convicts and the St. George's prison done away with altogether and converted to some other use; there are many and good reasons for the scheme, reference to which would be out of place in this report.

The number of persons committed to prison in 1887 was 262, being 56 more than in the preceding year and 33 more than the average of the last three years. Of this number 205 were committed for purposes of penal imprisonment, being 56 more than in 1886 and 31 more than the average of the previous three years. This increase is more marked in the case of females than in that of males, nearly twice as many females having been committed for penal imprisonment in 1887 as in 1886; 22 persons were sentenced by the Supreme Court to imprisonment with hard labour for periods varying from five years to six months.

During the last three years the cost per head of those confined in the prisons has been considerably diminished, while the profits derived to the Colony from various sources of industrial labour has been largely increased, and the institution may almost be said to be self-supporting.

In the matter of diet the annual cost per head has been reduced from 8*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* in 1884 to 4*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.* in 1887, and this, too, with a marked improvement in the health of prisoners; while the saving to the Colony which has been effected by baking bread at the male prison for all the public institutions, instead of buying it as formerly from a contractor, has been 683*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, or more than sufficient to pay the salaries of the whole prison establishment.

The daily average of convicts in Richmond Hill Prison excused from labour on account of illness, was—

In hospital - - -	0·84
In cell - - -	0 28
	1·12

In other respect, also, the medical report is highly satisfactory.

The state of the prisons is in every respect creditable to those immediately connected with their administration, and at Richmond Hill the general discipline, order, method, and cleanliness leave nothing to be desired.

Criminal Statistics.

29. The record of crime for the past year presents no marked features. The number of offences reported to the police and summoned before the Police Magistrates shows an increase over the two immediately preceding years, though it is almost identical with the number of like offences similarly dealt with in 1884.

The summary convictions and the convictions in the Supreme Court are more numerous than in the two years 1886 and 1885, though less as regards summary convictions than in 1884, when the number was 921 as against 875 in 1887. There were 27 convictions in the Supreme Court during the year under report as against 24 in 1886, 28 in 1885, and 22 in 1884; of these 27 convictions 11 were for offences against the person and 14 for offences against property. None of them were of a particularly heinous character.

Annexed is a comparative table showing the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals in both inferior and superior courts during the past four years:—

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Number of offences reported to the police -	1,728	1,584	1,451	1,727
Number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates -	1,728	1,554	1,451	1,727
Number of summary convictions - -	821	738	662	815
Number of convictions in the superior court	22	28	24	27
Number of persons acquitted:—				
In the inferior courts - - -	251	265	242	333
In the superior court - - -	12	18	24	12

HOSPITALS.

Colony Hospital.

30. There were 32 males and 22 females in this hospital on the 1st January 1887, and 402 were admitted during the year, of whom 271 were males and 131 females, making a total of 456 treated during the year. Of these 279 were discharged cured, 94 were relieved, 29 died, and there remained in the hospital on the 31st December 1887 54, namely, 35 males and 19 females.

The per-centage of deaths on the number of cases treated (456) was 6·35. The daily average in the hospital was 51.

The average daily cost of each patient was 1*s.* 3*d.*

Yaws Hospital.

31. This hospital had 70 patients from the previous year, 53 males and 17 females, and 175 males and 95 females were admitted during the year.

The daily average was 70. The total number discharged cured was 237; one died, and there remained in hospital on 1st January 1888 97 patients.

St. Andrew's Hospital.

32. Seven males and three females remained in this hospital on 1st January 1887, and 74 males and 14 females were admitted during the year, making the total number of patients treated 98. The daily average was 6¼ males and one female; 60 males and 12 females were discharged cured, and nine males and three females were relieved and one died.

St. John's Hospital.

33. In the St. John's Hospital there were six males and two females at the beginning of the year, and 82 males and 34 females were admitted during the year, the total number of patients treated being 124. The daily average was 7·8.

Lunatic Asylum.

34. This institution had in it at the beginning of the year 71 patients, of whom 36 were males and 35 females. During the year 23 were admitted, 17 males and 6 females. The daily average number in the asylum was 71. 13 inmates, 11 males and 2 females, were discharged and 9 died, 4 males and 5 females. The cost of maintenance per head was 16*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* per annum.

The sanitary condition of the asylum throughout the year was satisfactory.

Poor Asylum.

35. There remained in this institution on the 31st December 1886 48 inmates, 25 males and 23 females. Admitted during the year 1887, 15, 7 males and 8 females; remaining on the 31st December 1887, 48 inmates, 27 males and 21 females. The daily average was 48, and the total number under treatment 63. One of the inmates was transferred to the Colony hospital and six left of their own free will. Eight deaths were recorded, three males and five females, being three less than during the previous year.

The average cost per head was 10*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.* per annum.

General Remarks.

36. Unlike the majority of the West Indian Colonies, Grenada is decidedly prosperous. Under every head almost the statistics point to this. Still the present prosperity is based on the fact that the one staple of the Colony, cocoa, is for the time being paying the grower a handsome profit on his outlay. Should a heavy fall in prices arrive, and some think it not far off, there is nothing else to rely upon. Sugar has ceased to be cultivated to any appreciable extent and spices are still but a minor product. It is of the greatest importance that every effort should be made to induce those who own the land to establish in time a cultivation of the many products which would pay well and for which the soil of the Island is admirably adapted.

A movement is on foot, which has been started by his Excellency the Governor, to obtain all information which may be of value to those whose enterprise may induce them to lead the way in an endeavour to establish the prosperity of the Colony on broader foundations and to provide them with the means of placing the fruits of their industry speedily and in good condition in the most remunerative markets.

Progress in every direction has marked the last three years; it may be said that the Colony is at the present time spending borrowed money, but after all, the amount expended under the Public Works Loan Ordinance is only 21,000*l.*, a sum which, with a very small addition to the public burdens, the Colony could pay off with ease in three or four years' time. As it is, already, and several years before the law requires that provision for repayment should commence to be made, a sum of 1,500*l.* has been set aside and stands to the credit of the sinking fund.

The satisfactory position of Grenada is in the main due to the fact that the land is chiefly in the hands of small proprietors, there are over 4,000 persons who own the fee simple of their holdings, who are resident in the Island and who spend the proceeds of their crops in the place.

The Botanical Garden, which was established in 1886, has made good progress, and there is every reason to hope that it will prove

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of valuable assistance in the scheme of establishing and furthering the cultivation of minor products.

The parochial boards with the end of the year completed the first 13 months of their existence. In some instances their efforts and proceedings have been most satisfactory, in other cases time has been wasted and opportunities of doing good work allowed to slip from a false conception with respect to the position which they are intended to occupy instead of confining themselves to looking after and providing for the wants of the towns they represent. In some instances the meetings of the boards have been looked upon as an arena for airing political opinions and as an opportunity for pointing out the faults and failings of the general Government. Still a great deal of good work has been done, and they one and all appear eager to make improvements in their respective towns and parishes. Several schemes of importance, such as the introduction of water, the erection of jetties, the lighting and renewal of streets, are only waiting for the necessary funds to be taken in hand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. R. PIPON SCHOOLES,
For Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Walter J. Sendall, Esq., C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.
Governor.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 39.

BRITISH GUIANA.

REPORTS ON THE BLUE BOOKS FOR 1884 AND 1885.

[The Reports for 1886 and 1887 are printed in [C.—5239] and [C.—5249–25] respectively.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1888.

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1888.

[C.—5249.-32.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	„	2
3	Gambia	„	1
4	Victoria	„	2½
5	New Zealand	„	5
6	Tobago	1887	1
7	Gibraltar	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	1888	1
9	Heligoland	1887	1
10	Natal	„	1
11	Straits Settlements	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports 1886 and 1887).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turk's Island	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland	1886	½
15	Grenada	1887	1½
16	Trinidad	„	1½
17	Bermuda	„	1
18	St. Helena	„	½
19	Barbados	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 1887)	„	1
21	Bahamas	„	½
22	Labuan	„	½
23	Malta	„	1½
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	„	1
27	Leeward Islands	„	3½
28	British Guiana	„	2
29	Western Australia	„	½
30	Falkland Islands	„	1
31	Basutoland	„	1½
32	St. Lucia	„	1½
33	Hong Kong	„	1½
34	Fiji	„	3
35	British Honduras	„	1
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	„	2
37	Ceylon	„	1½
38	British New Guinea	„	6½

No. 39.

BRITISH GUIANA.

(I.)

Report on the Blue Book for 1884.

Sir H. T. Irving to the Earl of Derby.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
June 22, 1885.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of British Guiana for the year 1884, signed by the Assistant Government Secretary, under whose immediate supervision the work has been compiled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Henry Irving.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Report on the Results shown in the Blue Book for 1884.

Taxes and Duties.

1. The material alterations under this head were the increase of the *ad valorem* import duty from 5*l.* to 7*l.* for every 100*l.* value, and the placing of the tariff of customs import duties on a permanent basis by the passing of the "Colonial Duties of Customs Ordinance" (1 of 1884), when the duties on cigars and cigarettes, coals, cocoa, coffee, ganje, matches, opium, snuff, spirits, tobacco, and wine were increased, and those on beef (pickled, dried or smoked), lard, and pork were struck off. These alterations were made in the Combined Court at the Session in January 1884, after a lengthened consideration and revision of the customs tariff by the Committee of Ways and Means.

Revenue.

2. The Colonial revenue for the year 1884 was 460,932*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, a decrease of 17,284*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* as compared with the revenue of

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1883. A comparison of the figures for the last two years shows the increase and decrease under every head of revenue as follows:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
On import duties - - -	—	19,052 15 10
„ Wine and spirit duties - -	—	209 7 6½
„ Beacon and tonnage dues - -	778 12 1	—
„ Excise duty on rum - - -	1,211 17 10½	—
„ Retail spirit licenses - -	2,525 0 0	—
„ Woodcutting licenses - -	—	25 18 3
„ Other licenses - - -	—	237 15 0
„ Fees of offices - - -	—	56 12 9
„ Taxes fixed by law - - -	248 5 8½	—
„ Miscellaneous - - -	—	1,229 6 9½
„ Fines and seizures - - -	1,707 5 10½	—
„ Interest - - - -	—	3,919 8 3½
„ Establishments under Government -	976 1 4	—
Total - - -	7,447 2 10½	24,731 4 5½

showing a decrease in the revenue of 17,284*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*

The above decrease is attributable to the falling off in the import duties in 1884 as compared with those in 1883, when the trade of the Colony was overdone.

EXPENDITURE.

3. The total Colonial expenditure for 1884 amounted to 449,785*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, less than that for 1883 by 9,420*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*

The following are the principal items of increase or decrease:—

Immigration, East Indian.—The decrease of 2,140*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* under this head is due to a decrease in the number of the East Indian immigrants introduced into the Colony.

Education.—The increase of 1,237*l.* 6*s.* 11½*d.* under this head is owing to a small addition to the grants to primary schools.

Botanic Gardens.—An increase of 2,283*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* appears under this head and is accounted for by charges being made to maintenance instead of to loan account.

Works and Buildings.—This item exhibits a decrease of 3,564*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*, owing to a less number of new works being undertaken.

Roads and Bridges.—An increase of 10,329*l.* 16*s.* 1½*d.* is shown under this head, which is explained by the fact that all the roads are now kept in repair by the Government.

West India and Panama Telegraph Company.—The decrease of 2,870*l.* is due to the fact that the subsidy for 1884 alone is here shown instead of for two years as was the case in 1883.

Public Debt.—This increase of 9,883*l.* 10*s.* is explained by the further provision for sinking fund and interest.

Admission of Colony to Postal Union.—The decrease of 1,695*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* is due to the fact that the expenditure is for one year only instead of two, as in last year's Blue Book.

Interest on Bonds.—These items exhibit a decrease of 4,186*l.* 9*s.* 6½*d.*, which is due to charges being included in public debt.

LOCAL REVENUES.

4. *Georgetown.*—The revenue raised for municipal purposes in the city of Georgetown amounted to 40,440*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* as compared with 41,480*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* in 1883. The house tax levied during the year was at the rate of 2 per cent. on the appraised value and yielded 23,956*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* Market fees yielded 4,521*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* as against 5,278*l.* 8*s.* 7½*d.* in 1883; and water service 2,814*l.* 18*s.* 6½*d.*, being slightly more than the revenue from this source for last year.

The expenditure during the year was 44,527*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, an increase of 2,392*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* on the expenditure of 1883. The cost of labour and sanitary superintendence was 6,113*l.* 7*s.* 6½*d.*; the other large items of expenditure were 5,124*l.* 0*s.* 0½*d.* (loans repaid), 4,513*l.* 3*s.* 3½*d.* (interest account), and fire engines, 4,388*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*

5. *New Amsterdam.*—The revenue of the town of New Amsterdam amounted to 8,178*l.* 13*s.* 9½*d.* It was chiefly derived from the following sources:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Taxes on town property, 1½ per cent. -	4,377	17	6½
Market fees and rent of shops - -	1,219	12	9½
Colonial grant in aid of funds - -	1,041	13	4

The expenditure amounted to 8,719*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and the following were the principal items:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Maintaining roads, bridges, and drainage	1,968	18	1
Waterworks establishment - -	1,326	3	6½
„ loan repaid - -	1,262	2	4½
Salaries of town officials - -	1,472	9	10

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6. *Villages.*—The taxation of the villages under Ordinance No. 10 of 1873 amounted to 5,355*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.* Of this sum 4,147*l.* 7*s.* 7½*d.* were paid during the year, leaving 1,207*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* to be collected. Although the taxation for 1884 does not amount to the same sum as in 1883 by 1,777*l.* 7*s.* 7½*d.*, yet it is worthy of attention that at the close of 1884 nearly two-thirds of the taxes were paid, while at the close of 1882 more than one half of the taxes was in arrear.

The expenditure under Ordinance 4 of 1883, amounting to 9,032*l.* 5*s.* 10½*d.*, was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Drainage - - -	3,371	9	8
Roads, dams, and bridges - -	3,294	10	2½
Salaries, contingencies - -	1,613	3	7
Other expenses - - -	753	2	5
	9,032	5	10½

Compared with the expenditure of 1883 there was a decrease of 354*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.*

The liabilities of the villages under Ordinance 10 of 1873 on 31st December were as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Due on Government loan - -	18,164	4	6½
„ other debts - -	70	1	5½
	18,234	6	0

thus showing a decrease in the liabilities as compared with 1883 of 1,198*l.* 13*s.* 5½*d.*

The statement under Ordinance 10 of 1873 will continue to be shown until the debt to Government has been repaid, which will be effected by receipts for new empolders.

PUBLIC DEBT.

7. The public debt of the Colony for which the general revenue is directly pledged was on the 31st December 1884 75,000*l.*, on account of which sinking funds to the amount of 10,590*l.* have been provided. During the year bonds to the amount of 30,300*l.* have been redeemed.

The loans guaranteed by the general revenue exhibit a decrease of 81,145*l.* 0*s.* 0½*d.* They are as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For immigration - - - -	94,600	0	0
To the city of Georgetown - - -	27,519	3	4
To the town of New Amsterdam - -	3,194	8	10
Total guaranteed loans - -	125,303	12	2
Amount for which the general revenue is directly pledged - - - -	75,000	0	0
Grand total, 1884 - -	200,313	12	2
„ 1883 - -	311,758	12	2½
Decrease in 1884 - -	111,445	0	0½

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

8. The disbursements of the Colonial Government in connexion with the Georgetown Militia, the Volunteer force, and the Imperial troops in garrison amounted to 2,887*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* The Imperial expenditure was 11,387*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* The total military expenditure was therefore 14,274*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, and was 441*l.* 18*s.* 3½*d.* less than in 1883.

PUBLIC WORKS.

9. The provision made for public works during the year was to the extent of 123,414*l.* 0*s.* 3½*d.*, but of this only a sum of 75,394*l.* 13*s.* 9½*d.* was expended, as against 68,515*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.* in 1883

The following is a summary of the estimated and actual expenditure by the Public Works Department on all works undertaken during the year:—

	Estimated Expenditure.			Actual Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
County of Demerara - - -	15,281	5	0	14,589	3	10
„ Essequebo - - -	6,758	6	8	5,160	18	5
„ Berbice - - -	5,837	10	0	4,570	14	5½
New works - - - -	14,551	9	2	6,520	9	9
Miscellaneous - - - -	14,697	18	4	17,261	7	10½
Loan account - - - -	66,287	11	1½	23,941	3	8
Not provided for - - -	—			3,350	15	9½
Total - - -	123,414	0	3½	75,394	13	9½

Legislation.

10. Twenty-four Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are noteworthy :—

No. 1.—"Colonial Duties of Customs."

No. 3.—"To amend the Road Ordinances 1856 to 1878."

No. 11.—"To secure a proper Audit of the Public Accounts of the Colony."

No. 14.—"To take precautions to guard against the introduction into British Guiana of certain infectious diseases."

No. 16.—"To amend and consolidate the Customs Laws."

No. 19.—"To amend the law relating to the Rural Constabulary."

No. 21.—"For the abolition of imprisonment for debt and for punishment of fraudulent debtors."

No. 22.—"To amend and consolidate the law of insolvency."

Political Franchise.

11. The county franchise is determined by the possession of three acres of land under cultivation, or of house property of 20*l.* annual rental; by the occupancy for three years of six acres of land under cultivation, or for one year of house property of 40*l.* annual rental; or by an income of 125*l.*

The town franchise is determined by the possession of house property of the value of 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, or occupancy of the same at an annual rental of 25*l.*; or by an income of 125*l.*

The number of registered electors on 31st December was 1,306, showing an increase of 96 over the number registered in 1883 and of 265 over the number in 1882.

Councils and Assemblies.

12. *Court of Policy.*—Mr. B. Howell Jones retired at the close of the annual session of the Combined Court and was re-elected. Messrs. Hugh Sproston, W. Yates Perot, Arthur Braud and Wm. Russell, resigned in consequence of departure from the Colony, and were respectively succeeded by Messrs. Wm. Craigen, Chas. L. Bascom, Thos. Mulligan, and Alexr. Barr.

Civil Establishment.

13. *Deaths.*—There were four deaths amongst public officers holding appointments in the Colony, viz. :—

Dr. A. G. M. Cameron	aged	59	Health Officer.
Rev. Wm. Austin	„	84	Rector of St. John's Parish.
„ P. Galbraith	„	49	Presbyterian Minister.
„ W. E. Drew	„	53	Curate of St. Michael.
Mr. W. A. Pickel	„	40	Magistrate's Clerk.

14. *Appointments and Promotions.*—The principal changes in the public service during the year were as follows:—

Mr. Haynes Smith, Attorney General, administered the Government from 26th April to 2nd September in the absence on leave of Sir Henry Irving.

In the Immigration Department—Mr. A. H. Alexander, appointed in 1883 to be Agent-General, assumed the duties of that Office on the 24th March 1884. Mr. Thos. A. Bennett and Mr. A. H. Gordon were appointed to fill vacant sub-agencies. Messrs. E. W. Corner, J. M. Haward, W. A. Dickson, and W. M. Williamson were added to the Immigration Medical Staff.

Several ecclesiastical changes occurred, and the Rev. F. W Austin succeeded the Venerable Archdeacon Wyatt in the Archdeaconry of Demerara and Rectory of St. George's Parish, the Revs. Walter Heard, P. A. Stevenson, and F. P. L. Josa were appointed rectors. In the Church of Scotland the Rev. Jas. Spiers assumed the duties of minister of St. Clement's Parish.

Mr. H. H. Cunningham was appointed a Stipendiary Magistrate and assumed duties of that office on 25th April 1884.

SECURITY.

16. One hundred and twenty-eight officers in positions of trust gave security during the year, and the sums for which they were liable varied from 52*l.* to 6,250*l.* Of these, 149 officers gave security in the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund. The remaining officers had, prior to the establishment of the fund, executed the usual security bonds for the sum for which they were answerable.

PENSIONS.

17. The pension list of 1884 contains the names of 42 pensioners, and amounts to 8,765*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, showing an increase of 1,058*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, on that of 1883.

PUBLIC OFFICERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

18. The receipts of the fund—derived from abatements of 4 per cent. from salaries of 100*l.* and upwards of all public officers, and from interest on moneys invested—amounted to 9,017*l.* as against 5,476*l.* in 1883. There were 91 pensioners on the books of the fund on the 31st December 1884, as against 87 at the close of the preceding year, and the pensions paid during the year amounted in the aggregate to 7,079*l.*, showing an increase over 1883 of 31*l.* The credit balance of the fund was on 31st December 1884, 56,563*l.*, as against 54,820*l.* in 1883.

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POPULATION.

19. The estimated population of the Colony on 31st December 1884 was 264,063. There was a decrease during 1884 of 207 by the excess of deaths over births, but an increase by excess of immigration over emigration of 4,259, leaving an increase to the population of 4,052.

MISCELLANEOUS RETURNS.

20. *Savings Banks.*—From the report of the Colonial Receiver General on the savings banks for 1884 it will be seen that on the 31st December 1884 there were 13,298 depositors in the Government Savings Banks, with deposits amounting in the aggregate to 226,792*l.* That on the 31st December 1883 there were 13,391 depositors with deposits amounting in the aggregate to 251,621*l.*, thus showing a decrease in 1884 in the number of depositors of 93, and in the deposits of 24,829*l.*

Of the depositors—		£
5,908	were East Indians, with deposits amounting to	107,404
42	were Chinese „ „	785
726	were Portuguese „ „	34,842
6,622	were Europeans, Creoles, and others „	83,761
13,298		226,792

21. *Paupers.*—The number of persons who received Poor Law relief during the year was 2,387 as against 2,592 in the previous year—a decrease of 205.

22. *Immigration.*—The number of immigrants introduced during the year was 6,046, equivalent to 5,713 statute adults, viz.:—

From Calcutta - -	4,707	3,970½
„ Barbados - -	1,339	1,202½
	6,046	5,173

The average cost of each statute adult Indian immigrant was 17*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* during the season 1883-4, as compared with 17*l.* 16*s.* 6½*d.* in the previous season and 18*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* in the season 1881-2.

The cost of the immigrants introduced from Barbados was 1,820*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, or an average of 1*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* per statute adult, as compared with 1*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.*, the cost in 1883, 1*l.* 14*s.* 10½*d.* in 1882, and 3*l.* 13*s.* 6½*d.* in 1881.

23. *Returned Immigrants.*—The number of immigrants who returned to India during the year was 1,554 souls or 1,411 statute adults, being, as compared with the number returned in 1883, an increase of 51 adults. The sums deposited with the Government

by these immigrants for remittance to India amounted in the aggregate to 27,716*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, and the value of the jewellery carried away by them is estimated at 5,625*l.*, giving together an average saving of about 23*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per adult immigrant.

EDUCATION.

24. *Queen's College.*—The number of students in this institution on 31st December 1884 was 91.

25. *Guiana Scholarship.*—The third Public Competitive Examination of candidates for the "Guiana" Scholarship was held in 1884, and resulted in the award of one of the scholarships to a senior student of Queen's College.

26. *Elementary Schools.*—Government aid was granted to 176 schools, viz.:—

Primary schools		-	-	-	158
Infant	do.	-	-	-	10
Mission	do.	-	-	-	8
					176

Aid was withdrawn from one school, and seven were closed by their managers. Four new schools were added to the list of State-aided schools by the Governor and Court of Policy.

One hundred and seventy-three schools were inspected, and 25 failed, but of the latter number 21 were retained on the Government list. There were on the registers 17,941 children whose average attendance during the year was 10,084. The number present at inspection was 14,175, of whom 9,190 were examined and 6,840 passed in three subjects.

27. *School for Vagrant and Youthful Offenders.*—There were 149 boys in the school on the 31st December, as compared with 117 in the preceding year. The cost of the institution, excluding salaries of superintendent and subordinate staff, was 1,323*l.* 15*s.* The total receipts from provisions and bread sold amounted to 221*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

28. *Imports.*—The imports of 1884 were valued at 1,999,448*l.*, showing a decrease of 225,268*l.*, as compared with the imports of the preceding year.

29. *Exports.*—The value of the exports was 2,322,032*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* As compared with the exports of the preceding year there was a decrease of 849,979*l.*

BRITISH GUIANA.

The following is a comparative statement of the value of exports in the years 1883 and 1884:—

Comparative Statement of the Value of Exports in the Years 1883 *and* 1884, *showing the Increase or Decrease in* 1884 *in each Description of Export.*

Articles.	Value.		Increase in 1884.	Decrease in 1884.
	1883.	1884.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coffee - - -	146 13 0	153 9 1½	6 16 1½	—
Cocoanuts - - -	1,289 14 9	1,395 0 1	105 5 4	—
Charcoal - - -	5,780 8 6	6,485 8 10½	705 0 4½	—
Corn and pulse - -	123 6 8	132 10 0	9 3 4	—
Cattle and live stock -	4,135 15 4	343 15 0	—	3,792 0 4
Firewood - - -	117 13 4	131 17 6	14 4 2	—
Glue, Fish - - -	1,844 14 6	2,289 11 3	444 16 6	—
Gum, Balata - -	4,156 8 10½	3,751 19 4	—	404 9 6½
„ other - -	3,288 18 9	2,756 10 6	—	532 8 3
Hides and horns - -	3,523 1 1	3,406 16 1	—	116 5 0
Molasses - - -	101,070 0 0	48,202 10 0	—	52,867 10 0
Rum - - -	264,901 13 4	250,500 0 0	—	14,401 13 4
Shingles - - -	3,326 1 0½	2,502 16 1	—	823 4 11½
Sugar - - -	2,591,906 13 4	1,822,969 17 1	—	768,936 16 3
Timber - - -	13,696 13 3	13,404 0 4½	—	292 12 10½
Machinery - - -	—	—	—	—
Bullion, Gold - -	—	1,019 12 6	1,019 12 6	—
Miscellaneous - -	3,364 18 7	5,399 11 4½	2,034 12 9½	—
Total Colonial produce -	3,002,672 14 4	2,164,845 5 2	4,339 11 4½	842,167 0 6½
Total foreign produce -	169,339 1 1	157,187 3 5	—	12,151 17 8
Total exports - -	3,172,011 15 5	2,322,032 8 7	—	—
Net decrease, Colonial produce - - -	—	837,827 9 2	—	—
Net decrease, foreign produce - - -	—	12,151 17 8	—	—
	3,172,011 15 5	3,172,011 15 5	—	854,318 18 2¼

30. The following statement shows in round numbers the value and direction of the trade of the Colony :—

—	Imports from.			Exports to.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - - -	1,099,504	9	10½	1,777,376	15	11½
United States - - - -	323,388	2	0	281,625	15	1½
British North America - - -	112,153	11	4	36,919	3	4½
British West Indies - - -	177,516	16	8	103,910	1	9
Bermuda - - - -	2,545	0	4	3,524	1	10
India - - - - -	193,450	12	9½	—		
Other foreign countries - - -	90,889	7	1	118,676	10	6½
Total - - -	1,999,448	0	1	2,322,032	8	7

SHIPPING.

31. The number of vessels entered and cleared at the two ports of the Colony—Georgetown and New Amsterdam—during the year was as follows :—

—	Ports.	Entered.		Cleared.	
		No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steam vessels.	Georgetown - -	154	131,972	152	130,589
	New Amsterdam -	—	—	5	3,536
	Total - -	154	131,972	157	134,125
Sailing vessels.	Georgetown - -	850	203,309	862	209,674
	New Amsterdam -	45	8,604	37	7,544
	Total -	895	211,923	899	217,218
	Total steam and sailing vessels - -	1,049	343,895	1,036	351,343

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As compared with the preceding year there was a decrease in the number of vessels visiting the ports of the Colony as shown in the following comparative statement:—

—	Vessels.	1883.		1884.	
		No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Entered.	Steam vessels - -	123	109,621	154	131,972
	Sailing do. - -	940	207,805	895	211,923
	Total - -	1,063	317,426	1,049	343,895
Cleared.	Steam vessels - -	124	110,418	157	134,125
	Sailing do. - -	966	214,039	899	217,218
	Total - -	1,090	324,457	1,056	351,343

AGRICULTURE.

32. *Cultivated lands.*—The following are the principal heads of cultivation:—Canes, cocoanuts, plantains, coffee, cocoa, and rice.

The total area of land in cultivation and occupied by sugar estates, as per acreage returns of 1884, was 146,434 acres, of which 79,502 acres were in canes and the remaining 2,553 acres in plantains, showing an increase in 1884 of 2,220 acres of uncultivated lands and 220 acres in canes and plantains. The sugar cane is still being cultivated in several villages and a ready sale is obtained for the canes so produced, at remunerative prices. The canes are purchased from the growers and are ground on the sugar estates on the usine system, payment being made per ton according to the amount of sugar obtained, as indicated by polarization of the juice.

The exports of sugar, rum, and molasses, the products of the sugar cane of the Colony, were as follows:—

—	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Sugar - - - - hhds.	139,246	1,822,969
Rum - - - - puns.	33,400	250,500
Molasses - - - - casks	12,854	48,202
Total - - - -	—	2,121,671

There are no statistics of the entire area of land in cultivation throughout the Colony, the acreage returns having reference only to sugar estates.

Cocoanuts are cultivated chiefly in the Mahaicony district. The exports during the year were 517,929 cocoanuts, valued at 1,395*l.*

Coffee.—This article is largely consumed in the Colony, almost every household from the highest to the lowest using it. Half a century ago it was a considerable factor in the exports from the Colony; in 1832, 164 tons 12 cwts. 2 quarters and 11 lbs. were exported; of latter years the growth of coffee has gradually dwindled down until the quantity produced was quite inadequate to the demand in the Colony. In the year of report, 101,208 lbs. of coffee were imported; and of these 25,833 lbs. were exported, and the exportation of coffee grown here was 5,387 lbs.

Cocoa, though indigenous to the Colony, has never formed an important article of export. The high prices for this product recently prevailing has now given an impetus to its cultivation, and cocoa plants have been put in on some estates in the vicinity of Georgetown. It is estimated that there are about 597 acres in young plants in the No. 1 canal district.

Rice.—Many parts of the Colony are peculiarly suited to the production of rice, and the attempts that have heretofore been made in this direction have only failed because of the inadequacy of the labour supply of the Colony. In recent years rice has, however, been increasingly cultivated by East Indian immigrants who have served out their terms of indenture on the sugar estates.

33. *Uncultivated Lands.*—According to the returns furnished to the Crown Lands Department under the Acreage Tax Ordinance there were 64,378 acres of uncultivated lands, empoldered by sugar estates; but until the boundaries of the Colony are defined the total area of uncultivated lands cannot be even approximately ascertained.

34. *Rate of Wages.*—The wages of laburers on the sugar estates vary from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per diem paid to weeders and from 1*s.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* per diem paid to cane cutters; but during the year 1884 they have been leaning more to the lower rates. The immigrants on the estates are provided with dwellings and hospital accommodation, and industrious labourers are able to amass considerable sums of money, as is testified by their deposits in the Government Savings Bank, and by their remittances to India.

35. *Improvements in Agriculture and Manufacture.*—Considerable improvement has been made in recent years in the drainage and irrigation of land under cultivation on sugar estates, and also in the manufacture of sugar by improvements in furnaces for burning the megass direct from the mill, and for the better extraction of the juice from the cane. The tendency amongst sugar planters is to establish central factories for the crops of as many even as four sugar estates, and from 2,000 to 6000 hhds. are now the output of such factories.

The value of the machinery imported into the Colony during the years 1881, 1882, 1883, and 1884 was as follows:—

	£
1881 - - - - -	50,472
1882 - - - - -	155,989
1883 - - - - -	147,486
1884 - - - - -	182,596

GRANTS OF LAND.

36. Twelve licenses of occupancy and 30 woodcutting licenses were issued during the year for an area of 13,903 acres, an increase of 4,274 acres as compared with the area granted in 1883. Ten of the licenses were for grants of 100 acres and under, 20 for tracts of above 100 acres and not exceeding 300 acres, and 12 for tracts of more than 300 acres each.

There was a decrease of five woodcutting licenses, as compared with the number issued in 1882. The timber exported amounted to 208,983 cubic feet, showing an increase as compared with 1883 of 2,150 cubic feet.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

37. *Police Reports.*—The number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates was 12,392, a decrease of 1,574 compared with the number reported in 1883.

38. *Apprehensions and Summonses.*—The manner in which the cases brought before the magistrates' courts in 1883 and 1884 were disposed of was as follows:—

	1883.	1884.
Convicted - - - - -	12,260	11,617
Discharged - - - -	11,073	9,777
Acquitted - - - - -	5,050	5,510
Sent on to higher courts - - -	268	265
Total - - - -	28,651	27,169

39. *Convictions.*—The total number of summary convictions in the magistrates' courts was 11,617, as compared with 12,260, a decrease of 643 on the preceding year. The number of convictions for offences against the person was 3,703 as against 3,849 in 1883, showing a decrease of 146. There was a decrease of 478 in the convictions for offences under the Masters' and Servants' Acts as compared with 1883.

The punishments inflicted in the magistrates' courts in 1883 and 1884 are shown in the following comparative statement :—

Punishment.	1883.	1884.
Fine - - - - - -	57·41	52·79
Peremptory imprisonment - - -	14·76	13·62
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety -	25·70	29·64
Whipping - - - - -	·53	·87
Bound over with or without sureties - -	1·67	3·05

In the following table is shown the summary convictions and the convictions in the superior courts in each year since 1874, and the per-centage of such convictions to the population :—

Year.	Estimated Population.	Summary Convictions.					Convictions in Superior Courts.					Grand Total.	Per-centage.
		Offences against the Person.	Prædial Larceny.	Offences against Property other than Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences.	Total.	Offences against the Person.	Prædial Larceny.	Offences against Property other than Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences.	Total.		
1874 - - -	211,098	5,082	140	1,852	16,555	23,629	114	3	182	30	329	23,958	11·3
1875 - - -	216,908	7,379	268	2,001	13,115	22,763	113	–	138	28	279	23,042	10·6
1876 - - -	222,636	6,128	93	1,302	10,026	17,549	81	–	148	28	257	17,806	7·9
1877 - - -	228,705	7,368	135	1,650	8,977	18,130	104	–	148	49	301	18,431	8·0
1878 - - -	234,574	5,219	149	1,675	8,688	15,731	104	–	135	45	284	16,015	6·8
1879 - - -	240,443	4,828	189	1,525	7,387	13,929	110	–	249	44	403	14,332	5·5
1880 - - -	246,312	3,872	423	1,315	8,244	13,854	121	–	186	14	321	14,175	5·7
1881 - - -	254,225	4,097	271	1,244	7,453	13,065	84	1	135	13	233	13,398	5·2
1882 - - -	257,473	3,472	106	1,128	8,988	13,694	51	–	83	18	152	13,846	5·3
1883 - - -	260,011	3,849	152	1,068	7,191	12,260	64	–	63	20	147	12,407	4·8
1884 - - -	264,063	3,703	163	1,144	6,607	11,617	65	1	89	25	180	11,797	4·4

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

40. The total number of prisoners committed was 4,945, showing a decrease on the preceding year of 1,283 prisoners. The number committed for the purposes of penal imprisonment exhibits an increase of 18, the commitments in 1884 being 3,636 as against 5,404 in 1883. 767 persons were committed for safety till trial or for want of security, and five for debt. 1,406 (1,094 males, 238 females, and 74 juveniles) of these prisoners had been previously convicted—1,155 once, 166 twice, and 85 three times or more. The daily average number in prison was 741, as compared with 701 in 1883 and 820 in 1882.

There were 1,003 admissions to the prison hospitals, and 20 cases of sickness resulted fatally, as compared with 1,080 admissions and 21 deaths in 1883. The daily average on the sick list was 27, as compared with 23 in 1883. Five executions took place during the year. On 25 occasions compared with 10 in 1883, whipping was inflicted for offences within the prison walls. The total number of punishments inflicted was 3,195, as against 3,806 in 1883.

HOSPITALS.

41. *Admissions.*—There were 547 patients in the public hospital at Georgetown at the commencement of the year. The number of patients admitted for treatment during the year was 6,290, as compared with 6,999 in the preceding year.

The admissions of patients to the public hospital at New Amsterdam were 1,530, as compared with 1,382 in 1883. There were 87 patients in hospital at the commencement of the year.

Forty patients were in the Suddie Hospital at the commencement of the year and 1,195 were admitted; while in the free hospital at Massaruni there was one patient on the 1st January, and 67 admissions during the year.

42. *Out-patients.*—12,477 out-patients were treated at the public hospital in Georgetown, 3,394 at the hospital at New Amsterdam, and 506 at Suddie, and 501 at Massaruni.

43. *Discharges.*—The number of patients discharged was as follows:—

	Georgetown.	New Amsterdam.	Suddie.	Massaruni.
Cured - - -	3,622	901	712	29
Relieved - - -	1,402	287	318	27
Not improved - -	409	40	40	1
Total -	5,433	1,228	1,070	57

BRITISH GUIANA.

44. *Deaths.*—There were 932 deaths in the hospital at Georgetown, as compared with 891 in 1883.

In the New Amsterdam Hospital there were 215 deaths.

45. *Diseases.*—The principal kinds of diseases treated at the Georgetown Hospital were:—Ulcers, 622 cases; intermittent fever, 673; rheumatism, 331; phthisis, 284; diarrhœa, 348; syphilis, 161; debility, 240; anæmia, 211; abscess, 152; dropsy, 206; gonorrhœa, 76; bronchitis, 200; and eye disease, 96.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

46. *Admissions.*—The admissions were 97 (63 males and 34 females). The daily average number in the asylum was 434·5, an increase of 35·1 as compared with 1883.

47. *Discharges.*—Twenty-three inmates (15 males and eight females) were discharged as cured, and four males and one female left improved, making a total of 28 discharges.

48. *Deaths.*—There were 88 deaths in the institution. In 45 instances the deceased suffered from "Bright's" disease.

49. *Form of Mental Disorders.*—The cases in the asylum at th close of the year were classified as follows:—

	Cases.
Quiet, chronic and, convalescent - -	95
Maniacal - - - - -	289
Idiotic, paralytic, and epileptic - -	31
Melancholy, acute - - - -	3
	418

LEPER ASYLUMS.

50. *Asylum for Females, Gorchum.*—The asylum consists of six one storey buildings 48 feet long by 18 feet wide, raised on pillars 7 feet high. The gross superficial area is 5,184 square feet, and contains 46,656 cubic feet air space; 1,200 cubic feet is the average amount of cubic space allowed for each inmate. The asylum is under the supervision and control of Dr. J. D. Hillis, the medical superintendent of the asylum for males at Mahaica.

51. *Admissions, &c.*—The following table shows the admission to the several asylums and the results for the last two years :—

	Males.		Females.	
	Mahaica.		Gorchum.	
	1884.	1883.	1884.	1883.
Number of inmates on 1st January -	148	148	52	48
Admitted - - - -	111	46	10	16
RESULTS, 1884.				
Discharged - - - -	1	4	—	—
Returned to India - - -	2	5	—	—
Absconded - - - -	19	12	2	2
Died - - - - -	23	25	6	12
Number of inmates on 31st December 1884 - - - - -	214	148	54	50

Since the closing of the asylum on Kaow Island, Essequebo River, in December, when the lepers there (28 in number) were removed to Mahaica, considerable additional accommodation has been provided at the general asylum by the erection within the grounds of separate cottages, each constructed for eight inmates.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH RETURNS.

52. This return is added for the first time to the Blue Book of 1884, and a most satisfactory increase in all branches of the business of the department is shown during the past five years, also a steady improvement in its revenue.

A very marked increase is exhibited in the revenue derived from telegrams, especially since the reduction on 1st September 1881, of the charge from 1*s.* to 6*d.* on all inland telegrams of 10 words, exclusive of the address.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

No serious breaches of the peace have occurred, and the criminal statistics for the year continued to exhibit a decrease in the per-centage of convictions to the estimated population of 4·4 as against 4·8 in 1883, and 11·3 in 1874.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The sugar crop of the year 1884 was about 140,000 hogsheads, the largest, it is believed, on record; but the year under review was remarkable for the most severe financial crisis which the Colony has experienced during the present generation, and which was caused by the very depressed state of its staple industry, sugar, the prices of which began to decline with the beginning of the year, and continued steadily to go down until its close. The general depression in trade in the Colony thus caused was aggravated by an unusual drought, which continued throughout nearly the whole year. Notwithstanding these adverse circumstances, the public debt of the Colony has been considerably reduced, while further provision has been made for sinking fund and interest.

It is therefore a matter of congratulation that the general and financial results of the year under review bear a favourable comparison with those of the previous year, when it is borne in mind that the depression in trade was such as to make the year 1884 a memorable one in the history of the West Indies.

(Signed) GEO. MELVILLE,
Assistant Government Secretary.

Government Secretary's Office,
15th May 1885.

(II.)

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1885.

Sir H. T. IRVING to EARL GRANVILLE.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
June 7, 1886.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith two bound copies of the Blue Book of British Guiana for the year 1885, accompanied by the Report thereon of Mr. George Melville, Assistant Government Secretary, the officer entrusted with the preparation of the annual Blue Book.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) HENRY T. IRVING.
The Earl Granville, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the Results shown in the BLUE BOOK for 1885.

TAXES AND DUTIES.

1. There were no material alterations under this head. The tariff of Customs Import duties as passed by Ordinance 1 of 1884 was continued by the Combined Court for another year from 1st July 1885 to 1st July 1886, under Ordinance 9 of 1885; and the taxes for the year were levied under Ordinance 10.

REVENUE.

2. The Colonial revenue for the year 1885 was 434,813*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.*, a decrease of 26,118*l.* 18*s.* 0½*d.*, as compared with the revenue of 1884. A comparison of the figures for the last two years shows the increase and decrease under every head of revenue, as follows:—

——	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
On Import duties - - -	425 5 8½	—
„ Wine and spirit duties - -	—	11,784 0 7½
„ Beacon and tonnage dues - -	—	1,058 17 11
„ Excise duty on rum - -	—	7,569 2 6
„ Retail spirit licenses - -	—	821 17 6
„ Woodcutting licenses - -	—	485 9 2½
„ Other licenses - - -	—	771 5 11½

——	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
On Fees of offices - - -	—	1,097 17 11
„ Taxes fixed by law - - -	—	405 4 2
„ Miscellaneous - - -	596 2 9½	—
„ Fines and seizures - - -	—	918 9 11½
„ Interest - - - -	—	117 1 5½
„ Establishments under Government -	—	2,110 19 2
Total - - -	1,021 8 4	27,140 6 4½

showing, as above stated, a decrease in the revenue of 26,118*l.* 18*s.* 0½*d.* The above decrease is the result of the dulness in trade owing to the continued depression in the price of the staple industry of the Colony.

EXPENDITURE.

3. The total Colonial expenditure for 1885 amounted to 463,942*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* more than that for 1884 by 14,157*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*

The following are the principal items of increase or decrease :—

Immigration, East Indian.—The increase of 15,898*l.* 11*s.* 1½*d.* under this head is due to an increase in the number of East Indian immigrants introduced into the Colony.

Hospitals.—An increase of 1,432*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.* shown under this head is due to an increased expenditure in the dietaries, &c.

Works and Buildings.—This item exhibits a decrease of 10,065*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.*, owing to no new works being undertaken during 1885.

Steam Communication (Local).—The increase under this head of 1,393*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* is explained by the increase in the amount of the subsidy under the new contract which came into operation on the 1st July 1885.

West India and Panama Telegraph Company.—The increase of 1,752*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* is due to the fact that a portion of the subsidy for 1884 was included in the expenditure for 1885.

Public Debt.—This decrease of 1,949*l.* 7*s.* 5½*d.* is explained by the bonds under Ordinances 10 of 1863 and 25 of 1864 having matured.

Interest.—These items exhibit a decrease of 1,730*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, which is due to the decrease in deposits in the savings banks.

Miscellaneous Expenditure. — The large increase of 4,460*l.* 14*s.* 7½*d* under this head is due to the fact that no supplementary estimate was passed for 1885

The following table shows, since the year 1875, the amount of the *estimated* and *actual* public revenue and expenditure of the Colony, with the difference between the *estimated* and *actual* amounts, and the surplus or deficiency of income :—

Years.	Revenue.				Expenditure					
Ending 31st December.	Estimated in Ways and Means.	Receipts.	More.	Less.	Estimate and Supplementary Estimate.	Payments.	More.	Less.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1875 - -	360,833 6 8	352,136 16 10	—	8,696 9 10	362,952 5 10	355,979 1 10½	—	6,973 3 11½	—	3,842 5 0
1876 - -	351,666 13 4	363,807 19 0	12,141 5 8	—	351,991 0 5	343,734 10 2	—	8,256 10 3	20,073 8 10	—
1877 - -	356,250 0 0	389,871 10 4	33,621 10 4	—	370,876 17 6	380,565 12 2½	9,688 14 8½	—	9,305 18 1½	—
1878 - -	382,604 3 4	409,259 4 5	26,655 1 1	—	406,648 2 6	417,995 15 10½	11,347 13 4½	—	—	8,736 11 5½
1879 - -	378,333 6 8	395,740 13 2½	17,407 6 6½	—	410,095 14 7	387,642 15 7	—	22,452 19 0	8,097 17 7½	—
1880 - -	393,125 0 0	404,461 6 0½	11,336 6 0½	—	424,601 0 10	394,592 11 11½	—	30,008 8 10½	9,868 14 1	—
1881 - -	388,333 6 8	403,245 9 7½	14,912 2 11½	—	428,246 0 10	421,087 2 0½	—	7,158 18 9½	—	17,841 12 5
1882 - -	415,625 0 0	458,694 7 7	43,069 7 7	—	438,166 4 10½	428,971 9 4½	—	9,194 15 6	29,722 18 2½	—
1883 - -	455,000 0 0	478,216 8 1	23,216 8 1	—	497,790 19 8	459,207 9 4	—	38,583 10 4	19,008 18 9	—
1884 - -	474,166 13 4	460,932 6 6	—	13,234 6 10	485,566 16 10	449,785 14 7	—	35,781 2 3	11,146 11 11	—
1885 - -	445,833 6 8	434,813 8 5½	—	11,019 18 2½	455,300 18 8	463,942 18 3	8,641 19 7	—	—	29,129 9 9½

BRITISH GUIANA.

LOCAL REVENUES.

4. *Georgetown.*—The revenue raised for municipal purposes in the city of Georgetown amounted to 43,897*l.* 0*s.* 5½*d.*, as compared with 40,440*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* in 1884. The house-tax levied during the year was at the rate of two per centum on the appraised value and yielded 26,776*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* Market fees yielded 4,292*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* as against 4,521*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* in 1884; and water service 2,980*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, being 165*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.* more than the revenue from this source for last year.

The expenditure during the year was 46,387*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, an increase of 1,860*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* on the expenditure of 1884. The cost of labour and sanitary superintendence was 5,900*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*; the other large items of expenditure were 5,297*l.* 13*s.* 3½*d.* (bonds redeemable), 4,459*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* (interest account), and fire engines 4,641*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

5. *New Amsterdam.*—The revenue of the town of New Amsterdam amounted to 7,016*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* It was chiefly derived from the following sources:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Taxes on town property, 2 per centum -	3,495	6	6
Market fees and rent of shops - -	1,092	0	3½
Colonial grant in aid of funds - -	1,041	13	4

The expenditure amounted to 6,946*l.* 10*s.* 11½*d.*, and the following were the principal items:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Maintaining roads, bridges, and drainage	968	7	2½
Waterworks establishment - -	777	11	11
Instalments and interest on Colonial loans	1,169	15	10
Salaries of town officials - -	1,433	6	6

6. *Villages.*—The taxation of the villages under Ordinance No. 10 of 1873 amounted to 5,378*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* Of this sum 3,861*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* were paid during the year, leaving 1,517*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* to be collected. The amount of taxes collected in 1885 is slightly in excess of that collected in 1884.

The expenditure under Ordinance 4 of 1883, amounting to 8,280*l.* 6*s.* 1½*d.*, was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Drainage - - - -	3,944	6	6
Roads, dams, and bridges - -	1,951	5	0½
Salaries, contingencies - - -	1,917	4	8½
Other expenses - - -	467	9	10½
	8,280	6	1½

Compared with the expenditure of 1884 there was a decrease of 751*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.*

The liabilities of the villages under Ordinance 10 of 1873 on 31st December were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Due on Government loan - -	18,142	11	2½

thus showing a decrease only in the liabilities as compared with 1884 of 91*l.* 8*s.* 9½*d.*

The statement under Ordinance 10 of 1873 will continue to be shown until the debt to Government has been repaid, which will be effected by receipts for new empolders.

PUBLIC DEBT.

7. The public debt of the Colony for which the general revenue is directly pledged was on the 31st December 1885 162,000*l.*, on account of which sinking funds to the amount of 23,531*l.* have been provided. During the year no bonds have been redeemed.

The loans guaranteed by the general revenue are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
For immigration - -	105,400	0	0
To the city of Georgetown -	23,609	17	11
To the town of New Amsterdam	2,777	15	6
Vlissengen Commissioners -	53,541	13	4
Total guaranteed loans -	185,329	6	9
Amount for which the general revenue is directly pledged -	162,000	0	0
Grand total, 1885 -	347,329	6	9
„ 1884 -	200,313	12	2
Increase in 1885 -	147,015	14	7

The increase shown above has been caused by the issue of bonds under Ordinances 6 of 1879 and 24 of 1864 and by the Vlissengen Commissioners' bonds, which have hitherto not been placed on this statement.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

8. The disbursements of the Colonial Government in connexion with the Georgetown Militia, the Volunteer Force, and the Imperial Troops in garrison amounted to 2,871*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* The Imperial expenditure was 11,969*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* The total military expenditure was therefore 14,840*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, and was 566*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* more than in 1884.

PUBLIC WORKS.

9. The provision made for public works during the year was to the extent of 55,414*l.* 12*s.* 10½*d.*, but the sum of 67,324*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* was expended as against 75,394*l.* 13*s.* 9½*d.* in the previous year, and 68,515*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.* in 1883.

The following is a summary of the estimated and actual expenditure by the Public Works Department on all works undertaken during the year :—

	Estimated Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
County of Demerara - - -	11,729 3 4	11,027 13 11
„ Essequebo - - -	6,390 12 6	6,081 18 7½
„ Berbice - - -	4,736 9 2	3,693 1 6½
New works - - - -	266 18 6	260 13 6
Miscellaneous - - - -	12,291 13 4	15,221 1 11
Loan account - - - -	19,999 16 0½	24,789 15 7
Not provided for - - -	—	6,250 11 3
Total - - -	55,414 12 10½	67,324 16 4

LEGISLATION.

10. Sixteen Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are noteworthy :—

No. IV.—" For the more effectual prevention of crime."

No. V.—" To amend the licensing laws."

No. VI.—" For the better regulation of the public hospitals."

No. VII.—" To simplify the proof in magistrates' courts of service of summonses."

No. VIII.—" To amend the law as to jurisdiction in petty debt cases."

No. IX.—" Colonial duties of Customs, 1885."

The following were the Bills introduced during the year and read a first time :—

" To amend the Opium Laws."

" To amend the Leper Law."

" To regulate the appointment of auctioneers and sales at auction."

" To establish a Government Medical Service."

" To regulate the Crown Lands Department and to provide for the care and superintendence of the Crown lands, forests, rivers, and creeks of the Colony."

" To provide for the supply of fresh water to the district lying between the Canje Creek and the sea, in the county of Berbice, and to provide for the due regulation of the canal known as Boucher's Canal."

" To regulate the payment to be made to jurors, winessess, and interpreters attending the courts of criminal justice."

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

11. The county franchise is determined by the possession of three acres of land under cultivation, or of house property of 20*l.* annual rental; by the occupancy for three years of six acres of land under cultivation, or for one year of house property of 40*l.* annual rental; or by an income of 125*l.*

The town franchise is determined by the possession of house property of the value of 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, or occupancy of the same at an annual rental of 25*l.*; or by an income of 125*l.*

The number of registered electors on 31st December was 1,311, showing an increase of five over the number registered in 1884, and of 101 over the number in 1883.

COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

12. *Court of Policy.*—Mr. William Craigan retired at the close of the annual session of the Combined Court and was re-elected. Mr. Charles Bruce, C.M.G., succeeded the late Mr. William A. G. Young as Lieutenant Governor and Government Secretary, and took his seat on the 8th December.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

13. *Deaths.*—There were 8 deaths amongst public officers holding appointments in the Colony, during the year 1885, viz.:—

Mr. Lynch	aged	44	Superintendent of the Mahaica Leper Asylum.
The Hon. Wm. A.G. Young, C. M. G.	„	58	Government Secretary.
Mr. F. M. Bury, S.J.P.,	„	49.	
Dr. J. P. Watt	„	47	Immigration Medical Officer.
Dr. Manget	„	70	Surgeon-General.
Mr. W. Charpentier	„	41	Magistrates' Clerk.
Mr. W. Agard	„	33	Prison Officer.
Mr. Bristow	„	77	Retired Custom-house Officer.

The average age at death being 52 years and six months.

14. *Appointments and Promotions.*—The principal changes in the public service during the year were as follows:—

Mr. Charles Bruce, C.M.G., late Colonial Secretary of Mauritius, was appointed by the Queen Lieut. Governor and Government Secretary of this Colony, in succession to the late Mr. W. A. G. Young. He assumed the duties of his office on the 5th December.

Dr. Robert Grieve, Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, was appointed to act as Surgeon General and Medical Officer to the Immigration Department; and Mr. J. S. Wallbridge as Health Officer to the Port of Georgetown.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Mr. A. H. Thomson was appointed by the Secretary of State, Chief Clerk and Accountant in the Administrator-General's Office, in succession to the late Mr. T. S. Halliday.

In the Immigration Department, Mr. H. J. Gladwin was confirmed in the appointment of Sub-Agent; and Mr. G. P. Doyle was added to the Medical Staff.

The only ecclesiastical changes were the appointment of the Reverend A. C. Pringle to be minister of St. Catherine's Parish, Berbice; and the promotion of the Reverend W. H. Campbell, curate in St. John's Parish, Essequebo, to the Rectory of St. Michael's Parish, Berbice.

Mr. Nicholas Atkinson, Solicitor-General, was appointed to act as Puisne Judge; and Mr. A. V. L. Smith, Barrister-at-Law, as Solicitor-General.

Mr. E. J. R. Willcocks, late Superintendent of the Training Institution, was appointed to act as Secretary to the Poor Law Commissioners.

SECURITY.

15. One hundred and twenty-eight officers in positions of trust gave security during the year, and the sums for which they were liable varied from 52*l.* to 6,250*l.* Of these 114 officers gave security in the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund. The remaining officers had, prior to the establishment of the fund, executed the usual security bonds for the sums for which they were answerable.

PENSIONS.

16. The Pension List of 1885 contains the names of 44 pensioners and amounts to 8,882*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*, showing an increase of 117*l.* on that of 1884.

PUBLIC OFFICERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

17. The receipts of the fund derived from abatements of 4 per cent. from salaries of 100*l.* and upwards of all public officers, and from interest on moneys invested—amounted to 11,148*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, as against 9,017*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* in 1884. There were 93 pensioners on the books of the fund on the 31st December 1885, as against 91 at the close of the preceding year, and the pensions paid during the year amounted in the aggregate to 7,326*l.*, showing an increase over 1884 of 247*l.* The credit balance of the fund was on 31st December 1885 57,457*l.*, as against 56,563*l.* in 1884.

POPULATION.

18. The estimated population of the Colony on 31st December 1885 was 270,042. There was an increase during 1885 of 578

by the excess of births over deaths, and an increase by excess of immigration over emigration of 5,403, making a total increase to the population of 5,891.

MISCELLANEOUS RETURNS.

19. *Savings Banks.*—On the 31st December 1885 there were 13,006 depositors in the Government Savings Banks, with deposits amounting in the aggregate to 187,685*l.* On the 31st December 1884 there were 13,298 depositors with deposits amounting in the aggregate to 226,792*l.*, thus showing a decrease in 1885 in the number of depositors of 292, and in the deposits of 39,104*l.*

Of the depositors—		£
5,410	were East Indians with deposits amounting to	87,882
46	were Chinese „ „	344
638	were Portuguese „ „	24,819
6,912	were Europeans, Creoles and others „	74,640
13,006		187,685

20. *Paupers.*—The number of persons who received Poor Law relief during the year was 2,340 as against 2,387 in the previous year—a decrease of 47.

21. *Immigration.*—The number of immigrants introduced during the year was 7,258, equivalent to 6,295 statute adults, viz.:—

From Calcutta - -	5,015	4,310½
„ Madras - -	1,550	1,344½
Barbados - -	693	640
	7,258	6,295

The average cost of each statute adult Indian immigrant was 16*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* during the season 1884–5, as compared with 17*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* in the previous season, and 17*l.* 16*s.* 6½*d.* in the season 1882–3.

The cost of the immigrants introduced from Barbados during 1885 was 1,174*l.* 10*s.* 1½*d.*, or an average of 1*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* per statute adult, as compared with 1*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, the cost in 1884, 1*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.* in 1883, and 1*l.* 14*s.* 10½*d.* in 1882.

22. *Return Immigrants.*—The number of immigrants who returned to India during the year was 1,761 souls, or 1,580½ statute adults, being, as compared with the number returned in 1884, an increase of 179½ adults. The sums deposited with the Government by these immigrants for remittance to India amounted in the aggregate to 23,897*l.* 13*s.* 10½*d.*, and the value of the jewellery carried away by them is estimated at 4,791*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, giving together an average saving of about 18*l.* 3*s.* per adult immigrant.

BRITISH GUIANA.

EDUCATION.

23. *Queen's College.*—The number of students in this institution on 31st December 1885 was 75, as compared with 91 at the same date in the previous year.

24. *Guiana Scholarship.*—The third public competitive examination of candidates for the "Guiana" Scholarship was held in 1885, and resulted in the award of one of the scholarships to Mr. S. H. A. Lambert, the senior student of Queen's College.

25.—*Elementary Schools.*—Government aid was granted to 166 schools.

This number includes four new schools, viz., one in Georgetown; one in Hog Island; one at Friendship, East Coast, Demerara; and one to the Indian Mission School (Roman Catholic) on the Moruca, also five schools which failed at inspection and to which no grants have since been paid.

There were on the registers 17,793 children whose average attendance during the year was 10,628. The number present at inspection was 14,386, of whom 9,799 were examined and 7,377 passed in three subjects.

As the compulsory system has not been strictly enforced in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, the report of the Inspector of Schools for 1885 shows that the—

Number of children on the registers of aided schools in Georgetown was - -	4,697
And by a recent inquiry it has been ascertained that, besides public elementary schools, there are 121 schools (including Queen's College, the Roman Catholic Grammar School, the De Saffon, and other institutions) with an attendance of -	2,779
The number of children, therefore, attending schools, public and private, will be -	7,476
A percentage on the school population of -	96

In New Amsterdam the numbers are, reckoning in the same way:—

School population - - -	1,925
On registers of aided schools - -	1,050
Do. private schools, say -	130
Total at school - -	1,180
Percentage - -	61

26. *School for Vagrant and Youthful Offenders.*—There were 137 boys in the school on the 31st December, as compared with 149 in the preceding year. The cost of the institution, excluding

salaries of superintendent and subordinate staff was 1,360*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* The total receipts from farm produce and bread sold, inmates' labour in bakery, fees, for inmates' maintenance, and fines, amounted to 498*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

27. *Imports.*—The imports of 1885 were valued at 1,467,382*l.*, showing a decrease of 532,066*l.*, as compared with the imports of the preceding year.

28. *Exports.*—The value of the exports was 1,800,822*l.* As compared with the exports of the preceding year there was a decrease of 521,210*l.*

The following is a comparative statement of the value of exports in the years 1884 and 1885:—

Comparative Statement of the Value of Exports in the Years 1884 *and* 1885, *showing the Increase or Decrease in* 1885 *in each Description of Export.*

Articles.	Value.		Increase in 1885.	Decrease in 1885.
	1884.	1885.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coffee	153 9 1½	55 5 6	—	98 3 7½
Cocoanuts	1,395 0 1	498 6 6	—	896 13 7
Charcoal	6,485 8 10½	6,153 11 1	—	331 17 9½
Corn and pulse	132 10 0	1,497 19 7	1,365 9 7	—
Cattle and live stock	343 15 0	1,402 17 10	1,059 2 10	—
Firewood	131 17 6	235 12 11	103 15 5	—
Glue, fish	2,289 11 3	1,524 11 3½	—	764 19 11½
Gum, Balata	3,751 19 4	2,112 11 6	—	1,639 7 10
„ other	2,756 10 6	1,629 19 1	—	1,126 11 5
Hides and horns	3,406 16 1	2,509 12 7	—	897 3 6
Molasses	48,202 10 0	34,540 0 0	—	13,662 10 0
Rum	250,500 0 0	206,743 1 1	—	43,756 18 11
Shingles	2,502 16 1	1,782 3 6	—	720 12 7
Sugar	1,822,969 17 1	1,384,844 19 9½	—	438,124 17 3½
Timber	13,404 0 4½	26,059 11 2	12,655 10 9½	—
Machinery	—	—	—	—
Bullion, gold	1,019 12 6	3,249 3 4	2,229 10 10	—
Miscellaneous	5,399 11 4½	2,691 18 5½	—	2,707 12 11
Total Colonial produce	2,164,845 5 2	1,677,531 5 2½	17,413 9 5½	504,727 9 5
Total foreign produce	157,187 3 5	123,291 13 8	—	33,895 9 9
Total exports	2,322,032 8 7	1,800,822 18 10½	—	—
Net decrease, Colonial produce	—	487,313 19 11½	—	—
Net decrease, foreign produce	—	33,895 9 9	—	—
	2,322,032 8 7	2,322,032 8 7	—	538,622 19 2

BRITISH GUIANA.

29. The following statement shows in round numbers the value and direction of the trade of the Colony:—

Countries.	Imports from.			Exports to.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom - - -	724,670	17	10½	1,293,613	1	6½
United States - - - -	345,342	8	5	308,377	0	4
British North America - - -	90,763	15	1½	19,967	17	10
British West Indies - - -	49,812	12	7½	64,436	10	6½
Bermuda - - - -	171	1	5	2,619	6	3½
India - - - - -	195,928	5	10½	1,046	6	5
Other foreign countries - - -	60,248	6	5½	110,033	12	7
African Possessions - - -	445	0	0½	729	3	4
Total - - -	1,467,382	7	9½	1,800,822	18	10½

SHIPPING.

30. The number of vessels entered and cleared at the two ports of the Colony, Georgetown and New Amsterdam, during the year was as follows:—

—	Ports.	Entered.		Cleared.	
		No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steam vessels.	Georgetown - -	151	134,588	151	134,172
	New Amsterdam -	—	—	3	2,285
	Total - -	151	134,588	154	136,457
Sailing vessels.	Georgetown - -	745	175,184	756	180,430
	New Amsterdam -	21	4,608	15	2,936
	Total - -	766	179,792	771	183,366
	Total steam and sailing vessels - -	917	314,380	925	319,823

As compared with the preceding year there was a decrease in the number of vessels visiting the ports of the Colony, as shown in the following comparative statement:—

—	Vessels.	1885.		1884.	
		No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Entered.	Steam vessels - -	151	134,588	154	131,972
	Sailing do. - -	766	179,792	895	211,923
	Total - -	917	314,380	1,049	343,895
Cleared.	Steam vessels - -	154	136,457	157	134,125
	Sailing do. - -	771	183,366	899	217,218
	Total - -	925	319,823	1,056	351,343

AGRICULTURE.

31. *Cultivated Lands.*—The following are the principal heads of cultivation:—Canes, cocoanuts, plantains, coffee, cocoa, and rice.

The total area of land in cultivation and occupied by sugar estates, as per acreage returns of 1885, was 149,923 acres, of which 75,344 acres were in canes and the remaining 3,777 acres in plantains, showing a decrease in 1885 of 4,158 acres in canes and an increase of 1,224 acres in plantains. There is an increase of 6,422 shown in the total of acres of uncultivated land as compared with 1884, and an increase of 3,489 acres in the total area of empoldered land. The sugar cane is still being cultivated in several villages, and a ready sale is obtained for the canes so produced at remunerative prices. The canes are purchased from the growers and are ground on the sugar estates on the usine system, payment being made per ton according to the amount of sugar obtained, as indicated by polarization of the juice.

The exports of sugar, rum, and molasses, the products of the sugar cane of the Colony, were as follows:—

——	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Sugar - - - - hhds.	106,731	1,384,844
Rum - - - - puns.	28,353	206,743
Molasses - - - - casks	10,362	34,540
Total - - - -	—	1,626,127

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There are no statistics of the entire area of land in cultivation throughout the Colony, the acreage returns having reference only to sugar estates.

Cocoanuts are cultivated chiefly in the Mahaicony District. The exports during the year were 198,832 cocoanuts, valued at 498*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* as compared with 517,929 cocoanuts, and value 1,395*l.* in 1884.

Coffee.—This article is largely consumed in the Colony, almost every household from the highest to the lowest using it. Half a century ago it was a considerable factor in the exports from the Colony; in 1832, 368,771 lbs. were exported; of latter years the growth of coffee has gradually dwindled down until the quantity produced was quite inadequate to the demand in the Colony. In the year of report, 300,559 lbs. of coffee were imported as compared with 101,208 lbs. in 1884, and of these 17,704 lbs. were exported, and the exportation of coffee grown here was 2,585 lbs.

Cocoa, though indigenous to the Colony, has never formed an important article of export. The high prices for this product recently prevailing have now given an impetus to its cultivation, and cocoa plants have been put in on some estates in the vicinity of Georgetown. It is estimated that there are about 600 acres in young plants in the No. 1 Canal District. In 1885 the exports in cocoa amounted to 176,605 lbs. as compared with "*Nil*" in 1884.

Rice.—Many parts of the Colony are peculiarly suited to the production of rice, and the attempts that have heretofore been made in this direction have only failed because of the inadequacy of the labour supply of the Colony. In recent years rice has, however, been increasingly cultivated by East Indian immigrants who have served out their terms of indenture on the sugar estates.

32. *Uncultivated Lands.*—According to the returns furnished to the Crown Lands Department under the Acreage Tax Ordinance, there were 70,801 acres of uncultivated lands, empoldered by sugar estates; but until the boundaries of the Colony are defined, the total area of uncultivated lands cannot be even approximately ascertained.

33. *Rate of Wages.*—The wages of labourers on the sugar estates vary from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per diem paid to weeders, and from 1*s.* to 3*s.* 4*d.* per diem paid to cane cutters, but during the year 1885 and as in 1884 they have been leaning more to the lower rates. The immigrants on the estates are provided with dwellings and hospital accommodation, and industrious labourers are able to amass considerable sums of money, as is testified by their deposits in the Government Savings Bank, and by their remittances to India.

34. *Improvements in Agriculture and Manufacture.*—Considerable improvement has been made in recent years in the drainage and irrigation of land under cultivation on sugar estates by the deepening of channels for natural drainage. Navigable canals have been constructed in some instances whereby village farmers have been enabled to get their canes ground by estates' mills. The better extraction of the juice from the cane has been attained by hydraulic attachments to mills, whereby the percentage is

increased and something like equal compression is applied to a large or small feed of canes. The tendency amongst sugar planters is to establish central factories for the crops of as many even as four sugar estates, and from 2,000 to 6,000 hhds. are now the output of such factories.

The value of the machinery imported into the Colony during the years 1882, 1883, 1884, and 1885 was as follows :—

	£
1882 - - - - -	155,989
1883 - - - - -	147,486
1884 - - - - -	182,596
1885 - - - - -	46,189

showing the large decrease in value as compared with the previous year of 136,407*l.* with the value in 1883 of 101,297*l.* and with that of 1882 of 109,800*l.*

MANUFACTURES, MINES, AND FISHERIES.

35. Nothing calls for particular attention under the above return, except perhaps the impetus which has been given to prospecting for gold on the Upper Essequebo, Massaruni, and Cuyuni Rivers, and their tributaries, by considerable quantities of gold having been discovered in these localities.

There were 6,961 tons of granite, valued at 1,160*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, quarried at the penal settlement during the year 1885, as compared with 5,256 tons in the previous year. A royalty of 2½*d.* per ton is paid to the Government on stone quarried from private quarries.

The coasting and fishing trade of the Colony appears to be increasing, as 4,286 licenses for boats were issued during 1885, as compared with 3,910 in the previous year.

GRANTS OF LAND

36. Twelve licenses of occupancy and 33 woodcutting licenses were issued during the year for an area of 12,557 acres, a decrease of 1,346 acres as compared with the area granted in 1884. Thirteen of the licenses were for grants of 100 acres and under, 21 for tracts of above 100 acres and not exceeding 300 acres, and 11 for tracts of more than 300 acres each.

There was an increase of three woodcutting licenses, as compared with the number issued in 1884. The timber exported amounted to 387,889 cubic feet, showing an increase as compared with 1884 of 178,906 cubic feet.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

37. *Police Reports.*—The number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates was 14,421, showing the large increase of 2,029 as compared with the number reported in 1884.

BRITISH GUIANA.

38. *Apprehensions and Summonses.*—The manner in which the cases brought before the magistrates' courts in 1884 and 1885 were disposed of was as follows :—

	1885.	1884.
Convicted - - - - -	12,430	11,617
Discharged - - - - -	8,091	9,777
Acquitted - - - - -	6,002	5,510
Sent on to higher courts - - -	419	265
Total - - - -	26,942	27,169

39. *Convictions.*—The total number of summary convictions in the magistrates' courts was 12,430 as compared with 11,617, an increase of 813 on the preceding year. The number of convictions for offences against the person was 2,692 as against 3,703 in 1884, showing a decrease of 1,011. There was a decrease of 391 in the convictions for offences under the Masters and Servants Acts as compared with 1884.

The punishments inflicted in the magistrates' courts in 1884 and 1885 are shown in the following comparative statement :—

Punishment.	Per-centage of Total Punishments.	
	1885.	1884.
Fine - - - - - -	48·98	52·79
Peremptory imprisonment - - -	15·76	13·62
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety -	32·14	29·64
Whipping - - - - -	1·71	·87
Bound over with or without sureties - -	2·19	3·05

In the following table is shown the summary convictions and the convictions in the superior courts in each year since 1875 and the per-centage of such convictions to the population :—

Year.	Estimated Population.	Summary Convictions.					Convictions in Superior Courts.					Grand Total.	Per-centage.
		Offences against the Person.	Prædial Larceny.	Offences against Property other than Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences.	Total.	Offences against the Person.	Prædial Larceny.	Offences against Property other than Prædial Larceny.	Other Offences.	Total.		
1875 - - -	216,908	7,379	268	2,001	13,115	22,763	113	–	138	28	279	23,042	10·6
1876 - - -	222,636	6,128	93	1,302	10,026	17,549	81	–	148	28	257	17,806	7·9
1877 - - -	228,705	7,368	135	1,650	8,977	18,130	104	–	148	49	301	18,431	8·0
1878 - - -	234,574	5,219	149	1,675	8,688	15,731	104	–	135	45	284	16,015	6·8
1879 - - -	240,443	4,828	189	1,525	7,387	13,929	110	–	249	44	403	14,332	5·5
1880 - - -	246,312	3,872	423	1,315	8,244	13,854	121	–	186	14	321	14,175	5·7
1881 - - -	254,225	4,097	271	1,244	7,453	13,065	84	1	135	13	233	13,398	5·2
1882 - - -	257,473	3,472	106	1,128	8,988	13,694	51	–	83	18	152	13,846	5·3
1883 - - -	260,011	3,849	152	1,068	7,191	12,260	64	–	63	20	147	12,407	4·8
1884 - - -	264,063	3,703	163	1,144	6,607	11,617	115	1	143	51	310	11,927	4·5
1885 - - -	270,042	2,692	626	1,562	7,550	12,430	174	2	264	68	508	12,938	4·7

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

40. The total number of prisoners committed was 7,195, showing a large increase on the preceding year of 2,250 prisoners. The number committed for the purposes of penal imprisonment also exhibits the increase of 1,164, the commitments in 1885 being 4,800, as against 3,636 in 1884. 1,307 persons were committed for safety till trial or for want of security, and none for debt. 2,083 prisoners (1,631 males, 318 females, and 144 juveniles) had been previously convicted; of these, 1,715 once, 235 twice, and 143 three times or more. The daily average number in prison was 880, as compared with 741 in 1884 and 701 in 1883.

There were 1,170 admissions to the prison hospitals, and 30 cases of sickness resulted fatally, as compared with 1,003 admissions and 20 deaths in 1884. The daily average on the sick list was 28, as compared with 27 in 1884. Only one execution took place during the year. On 60 occasions compared with 25 in 1884, whipping was inflicted for offences within the prison walls, in 29 cases with the cat and in 31 cases with he birch; and out of the total number of whippings (60) 33 were fr prison offences, and 27 the sentences of courts. The total number of punishments inflicted was 2,797 as against 3,195 in 1884.

HOSPITALS.

41. *Admissions.*—There were 466 patients in the public hospital at Georgetown at the commencement of the year, a decrease of 81 in the number at the same time of the year 1884. The number of patients admitted for treatment during the year was 6,353, as compared with 6,290 in the preceding year.

The admissions of patients to the public hospital at New Amsterdam were 1,489, as compared with 1,530 in 1884. There were 87 patients in hospital at the commencement of the year, the same number as in the previous year.

Forty-eight patients were in the Suddie Hospital at the commencement of the year and 704 were admitted, as compared with 1,195 in the previous year, while in the free hospital at Massaruni there were two female patients on the 1st January, and 87 admissions during the year, an increase of 20 as compared with the previous year.

42. *Out-patients.*—15,415 out-patients—an increase of nearly 3,000 on the previous year—were treated at the public hospital in Georgetown; 5,032 as compared with 3,394 at the hospital at New Amsterdam; 471 at Suddie; and 424 at Massaruni.

43. *Discharges.*—The number of patients discharged was as follows:—

	Georgetown.	New Amsterdam.	Suddie.	Massaruni.
Cured - - -	2,992	1,056	496	35
Relieved - - -	1,547	202	107	36
Not improved - -	773	33	10	2
Total - -	5,312	1,291	613	73

44. *Deaths.*—There were 913 deaths in the hospital at Georgetown, as compared with 932 in 1884.

In the new Amsterdam Hospital there were 188 deaths as against 215 in 1884; in the hospital, Essequebo, 100, as against 117 in the previous year; and at Massaruni Hospital the same number of deaths is recorded in the years 1884 and 1885.

45. *Diseases.*—The principal kinds of diseases treated at the Georgetown Hospital were:—Ulcers, 547 cases; intermittent fever, 491; rheumatism, 297; phthisis, 317; diarrhœa, 274; syphilis, 61; debility, 381; anæmia, 113; abscess, 114; Bright's disease, 244; gonorrhœa, 62; bronchitis, 217; and eye disease, 93.

The following is a comparative table of the diseases treated at the four public hospitals and of the deaths from such diseases for the years 1884 and 1885:—

Diseases.	Georgetown.				New Amsterdam.			
	1885.		1884.		1885.		1884.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Zymotic - - -	1,885	252	2,220	249	408	54	609	56
Constitutional - -	475	159	656	299	138	46	104	49
Local - - -	2,587	352	2,164	163	818	61	609	82
Developmental - -	634	100	622	213	140	23	107	27
Accidents - - -	274	19	340	9	72	4	97	1
Total - -	5,855*	882	6,002	933	1,576	188	1,526†	215

(*continued.*)

Diseases.	Suddie.				Massaruni.			
	1885.		1884.		1885.		1884.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Zymotic - - -	195	19	461	29	40	10	23	3
Constitutional - -	67	34	118	35	5	—	2	2
Local - - - -	411	35	557	33	28	3	22	1
Developmental -	43	10	73	20	2	—	11	3
Accidents - - -	24	2	17	—	12	—	8	—
Total - -	740‡	100	1,226§	117	87	13	66‖	9

* 23 Moribund on admission. † 41 Moribund on admission.
‡ 9 Moribund on admission. § 8 Moribund on admission. ‖ 2 Moribund on admission.

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LUNATIC ASYLUM.

46. *Admissions.*—The admissions were 101 (62 males and 39 females). The daily average number in the asylum was 437·0, an increase of 2·5 as compared with 1884.

47. *Discharges.*—Twenty inmates (16 males and four females) were discharged as cured, and one male and one female left improved, making a total of 22 discharges.

48. *Deaths.*—There were 41 deaths (23 males and 18 females) in the institution. In 14 instances the deceased suffered from "Bright's" disease.

49. *Form of Mental Disorders.*—The cases in the asylum at the close of the year were classified as follows:—

	Cases.
Quiet chronic and convalescent - -	298
Maniacal - - - - -	108
Idiotic, paralytic, and epileptic - -	46
Melancholy, acute - - - -	4
	456

of whom 298 were males and 158 females.

LEPER ASYLUMS.

50. *Admissions, &c.*—The following table shows the admissions to the several asylums, and the results for the last two years:—

	Males.		Females.	
	Mahaica.		Gorchum.	
	1884.	1885.	1884.	1885.
Number of inmates on 1st January -	148	214	52	54
Admitted - - - - -	111	121	10	11
RESULTS, 1885.				
Discharged - - - -	1	1	—	—
Returned to India - -	2	10	—	—
Removed - - - -	—	1	—	—
Absconded - - - -	19	34	2	1
Died - - - - -	23	45	6	5
Number of inmates on 31st December 1885 - - - - -	214	244	54	59

Since the closing of the asylum on Kaow Island, Essequebo river, in December 1884, when the lepers there (28 in number) were removed to Mahaica, considerable additional accommodation has been provided at the General Asylum by the erection within the grounds of separate cottages, each constructed for eight inmates.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH RETURNS.

51. These returns show a decrease in the total number of letters, newspapers, book packets, and post cards posted in the year 1885, as compared with the previous year, of 16,901.

There was an increase, however, in the total value of money orders issued during the year 1885 of 1,784*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with that of the previous year. The value of orders for the United Kingdom was 24,803*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, as compared with 2,948*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, the aggregate value of orders issued for Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, and other West Indian Colonies.

There was a decrease of 9,716 on the total number of telegrams dealt with in 1885 as compared with 1884, and a decrease in the revenue from this source and from private wires and telephone exchange of 577*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.*

The decrease in the nett postal and telegraph receipts for 1885 was 342*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with 1884.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

52. This return is added by directions of the Secretary of State to the Blue Book of 1885 for the first time. It is to be regretted that records have not hitherto been kept at several stations in the Colony, more especially in the interior, when the difference between the results of observations taken, say, at the Penal Settlement and Georgetown would doubtless be highly interesting.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

While no serious breaches of the peace have taken place during the year under report, the criminal statistics bear an unfavourable comparison with those of the 10 preceding years. The large increase in the number of convictions for prædial larceny is very significant of the hard times which are being felt by the labouring population of the country districts.

The sugar crop for 1885 was about 107,000 hogsheads, which, though it shows a decrease of 33,000 hogsheads as compared with the previous year, is not very much below the average.

The same conditions existed at the close of the year 1885 as were recorded at the same date in the previous year; a continued very low market price for sugar, and a protracted drought. In the face of such adverse conditions the large falling off in revenue,

especially in the receipts for import duties, duties on wines and spirits, and rum duties, appears to follow as a natural sequence.

The reduction in the amount of savings banks deposits also indicates in a marked manner the severity of the commercial and financial crisis through which the Colony is still passing by telling upon the savings of the thrifty classes, Creoles as well as immigrants.

It is noteworthy, however, that during the past 15 years the revenue for the year 1885 is the fourth largest attained, and that also during the same period the deficit shown is the seventh.

The results, therefore, of the Blue Book statistics of the year 1885 may, with justification, and under the general depression as above explained, be considered reassuring.

(Signed) GEO. MELVILLE,
Assistant Government Secretary.

Government Secretary's Office.
15th May 1886.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 28.

BRITISH GUIANA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1888.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.; or
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HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., 104, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1888.

[C.—5249.—25.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	1888	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports, 1886 and 1887).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turk's Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 1887).	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1½
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent - -	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	„	1
27	Leeward Islands - -	„	3½

No. 28.

BRITISH GUIANA.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3388]; 1880 [C.—3218].]

Viscount GORMANSTON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Georgetown, Demerara,
July 31, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, under cover, two bound copies of the Blue Book of British Guiana for the year 1887.

I also transmit the Report on this Blue Book by Mr. F. W. Collier, Acting Assistant Government Secretary.

This report reflects much credit on Mr. Collier, whose long service and experience in the public service I have already brought to your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GORMANSTON.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the results shown in the BLUE BOOK for 1887.

TAXES, DUTIES, AND OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE.

1. No material changes were made in taxation during the year under report. The Customs and Excise duties remained unaltered, and the only change effected by the Annual Tax Ordinance passed on the 20th May 1887 was the imposition of taxes in the form of licences on banks, insurance companies, and the offices of legal practitioners, which had theretofore escaped taxation. These licences in the six months during which they were imposed yielded an additional revenue of 1,098*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Insurance offices - -	833	6	8
Legal practitioners' offices -	57	5	10
Banks - - -	208	6	8
	1,098	19	2

The respective schedules of fees underwent revision upon the amendment of the laws relating to coroners, the Administrator General's office, and the Crown lands.

BRITISH GUIANA.

REVENUE.

2. The Colonial revenue for the year 1887 was 463,870*l.* 15*s.* 4½*d.*, an increase of 17,844*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* on the revenue of 1886. A comparison of the figures for the last two years shows increases under the following heads of revenue, viz.:—

	Increase.
	£
Import duties - - - -	19,648
Excise duty on rum - - -	5,598
Wine and spirit duties - - -	2,261
Licences, other than spirit and wood-cutting - - - -	527
Beacon and tonnage dues - -	534
Fees of office - - - -	246
Taxes fixed by law - - -	182

Import Duties.—The difference under this head arises from fluctuations in imports, chiefly of rice and flour, as is evidenced by the following comparisons, viz.:—

Duty Received.	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£	£	£
Rice - - -	26,339	17,518	22,783
Flour - - -	29,468	25,726	29,627

Rum Duties.—The increase under rum duties is attributable to the advance of the Excise duty by 5*d.* per gallon imposed from 1st July 1886 and levied throughout 1887.

The increases shown under the other heads are less important and call for no special remark.

The item *Miscellaneous Receipts* was explained in the last report to be abnormally high in 1886. The only other item of decrease that calls for remark is *Retail Spirit Licences.* The decrease in the licence duties is due, as was also then explained, to the reduction in the classification of licences, made by the Excise board. The licences being fixed annually in the month of June the changes made necessarily affect the revenue of two calendar years.

The sources of revenue which exhibit a decrease are :—

	Decrease.
	£
Miscellaneous - - -	4,814
Retail spirit licences - -	2,265
Fines and seizures - - -	579
Wood-cutting licences - - -	275
Establishments under Government -	225

EXPENDITURE.

3. The total Colonial expenditure amounted to 489,214*l.* 15*s.* 8½*d.* and was 12,250*l.* 15*s.* more than the expenditure of 1886.

The following are the principal items of increase or decrease :—

Immigration.—The decrease of 17,769*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, which appears under this head in the comparative statement of expenditure, is due to the re-arrangement in the accounts alluded to in the last report, when the apparent increase was accounted for by the fact that the expenditure for 21 months had been brought to account.

Public Debt.—The further increase of 13,504*l.* 6*s.* 3½*d.* exhibited under this head arises from the payment in 1887 of the interest on bonds issued under the Loan Ordinance No. 4 of 1886.

Miscellaneous.—The expenditure under this head includes a sum of 2,318*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, expenses in connexion with the new gold industry, and this it will be seen is chiefly the cause of the increase of 4,584*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* shown in the comparison.

Education.—The excess of 3,321*l.* 10*s.* 5½*d.* on the expenditure of 1886 arose from a large increase in the grants in aid of primary schools, caused by better attendance at the schools.

LOCAL REVENUES.

4. *Georgetown.*—The revenue raised for municipal purposes in the city of Georgetown amounted to 45,032*l.* 11*s.* 11½*d.* as compared with 43,365*l.* 4*s.* 9½*d.* in 1886. The house tax levied during the year was at the rate of 2 per cent. on the appraised value.

The chief sources of revenue were :—

	£
Taxes on town property - -	27,322
Fees from town markets - - -	4,274
Water service - - - -	2,515
Government grant in aid - -	4,166

The expenditure during the year was 43,422*l.* 4*s.* 10½*d.*, a decrease of 588*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.* on the expenditure of 1886.

The following were the principal items, viz. :—

	£
Bonds redeemable and interest account -	9,894
Labour and sanitary superintendence -	5,788
Waterworks - - - -	2,905
Stone depôt - - - -	4,002

The extension of Georgetown has been provided for in the purchase by the mayor and town council of certain lands in the vicinity and to the windward of the city, to be afterwards carefully laid out and incorporated.

5. *New Amsterdam.*—The revenue of the town of New Amsterdam amounted to 7,920*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.* It was chiefly derived from the following sources :—

	£
Taxes on town property, 2 per cent. -	3,469
Market fees and rent of shops - -	1,248
Government grant in aid of town funds -	781

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The expenditure amounted to 7,627*l.* 7*s.* 0½*d.*, and the following were the principal items :—

	£
Maintaining roads, bridges, and drainage -	1,905
Waterworks establishment - -	590
Instalments and interest on Colonial loans-	1,824
Salaries of town officials - - -	1,278

6. *Villages.*—Eighteen incorporated villages were rated at a uniform rate of 2 per cent. on house and landed property, and the revenue derived therefrom amounted in the aggregate to 4,292*l.* 17*s.* 2½*d.* as compared with 5,272*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.* in 1886.

The expenditure on villages, amounting to 11,334*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.*, was as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Drainage - - -	4,111	3	4½
Roads, dams, and bridges - -	5,057	8	0
Salaries and contingencies - -	1,785	2	6½
Other expenses - - -	380	7	5½
	11,334	1	4½

Compared with the expenditure of 1886 there was an increase of 2,818*l.* 15*s.* 2½*d.* arising from works in various villages necessitated by the floods which occurred during the early part of the year.

The liabilities of the villages on 31st December were 16,874*l.* 7*s.* 0½*d.* due on Government loan, as compared with 16,893*l.* 14*s.* 6½*d.* on 31st December 1886, and continued to exhibit a gradual extinction of the debt to Government.

PUBLIC DEBT.

7. No fresh bonds were issued during the year, and the public debt of the Colony for which the general revenue is directly pledged remained on the 31st December 446,700*l.* A sinking fund of 43,313*l.* was provided for the redemption of the debt.

The loans guaranteed by the general revenue exhibit a decrease of 10,077*l.* 6*s.* 10½*d.* They were as follows :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For immigration - - - -	120,000	0	0
To the city of Georgetown - - -	15,934	7	6
To the town of New Amsterdam - -	1,944	8	10
To the Commissioners of Vlissengen -	47,916	13	4
Total guaranteed loans - -	185,795	9	8
Amount for which the general revenue is directly pledged - - - -	446,700	0	0
Grand total, 1887 - -	632,495	9	8
„ 1886 - -	642,572	16	6½
Decrease in 1887 - -	10,077	6	10½

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

8. The disbursement of the Colonial Government in connexion with the Georgetown Militia, the Volunteer force, and the Imperial troops in garrison amounted to 2,537*l.* 3*s.* The Imperial expenditure was 7,523*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* The total military expenditure was therefore 10,060*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, and was 63*l.* 17*s.* 6½*d.* more than in 1886.

PUBLIC WORKS.

9. Provision was made on the annual estimate for public works to the extent of 37,210*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* The actual expenditure during the year was 38,148*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* as compared with an expenditure in 1886 of 31,321*l.* 12*s.* 10½*d.* The expenditure on loan account was 32,710*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* as against 11,340*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.* in 1886. This increased expenditure arose chiefly from the works at the Polders and the new law courts.

As in the previous year, no new works were undertaken. The operations of the Public Works Department were confined to the maintenance of existing works under its charge and to the completion of works already commenced.

The new law courts, which had been for some time in course of erection, having been completed, were formerly opened on the 24th May by Sir Henry Turner Irving, K.C.M.G., and were called the Victoria Buildings in commemoration of the Jubilee of Her Majesty's reign.

Progress was made with the Polder works. In the Canals Polder a concrete lock was constructed at the Hobaboe Creek, and a concrete sluice at the head of Canal No. 1. The southern and western boundaries also were commenced and actively gone on with. The cost of the works executed from January 1886 to December 1887 has been returned as amounting to 20,803*l.* 3*s.* 2½*d.*

In the East Coast Berbice Polder a new iron lock was placed at the mouth of the Grand Canal, and the canal was widened and deepened. The cost of these works was 2,614*l.* 7*s.*

The floods which occurred throughout the country at the close of 1886 and in the early part of 1887 involved much labour and expenditure in maintaining the back-dams and repairing the roads of the villages. Some of the villages on the east and west coasts were during the year connected with the fresh water supply systems of those districts. It is proposed to connect all lying in those districts, thus securing to them an abundant supply of water in times of drought.

LEGISLATION.

10. *Ordinances.*—Twenty-one Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are noteworthy, viz. :—

No. 4.—"To make provision for mining for gold, silver, precious stones, and valuable minerals."

The development of the gold industry manifested the insufficiency of the existing laws to regulate it. It was further necessary to provide for granting mining concessions ; also for the issue of licences in the event of the discovery of precous stones

BRITISH GUIANA.

and other valuable minerals, of which there seemed to be reasonable prospect. The size of a concession is fixed at 500 acres. The regulations made under the Ordinance permit of the occupation of a concession for 12 months from the date of application, for the completion of arrangements for working it, after which period royalty or rent must be paid equal to 4*s.* 2*d.* per annum for each acre of land above 50 acres, or the concession becomes forfeited.

For the determination of disputes, provision is made by giving the party aggrieved by the order of the Government officer the right of a re-hearing before a judge with an appeal to the full court.

No. 7.—"To amend the law relating to coroners."

Considerable inconvenience had been experienced by the necessity under the law of 1861 for holding inquests previously to the bodies being interred. Under this enactment, if a coroner cannot attend at once a medical officer may be required to make a post-mortem examination of the body and give a written report. The report may be used at the inquest, and the attendance of that officer dispensed with. The body need not be viewed by the jury unless they deem it expedient. Where the services of jurors cannot be obtained, an inquiry may be held without them.

The proceedings are required to be transmitted to the Attorney General, instead of as heretofore to the police magistrate of Georgetown, and are ultimately deposited in the Registrar's Office.

No. 15.—"To amend and consolidate the law relating to the office and duties of the Administrator General."

No. 16.—"To amend the law relating to the devolution, administration, and distribution of the estates of deceased persons."

No. 17.—"To provide for the better administration of property held in trust."

The necessity for a reorganisation of the office of the Administrator General was rendered apparent by the report of the Commissioners appointed in 1882 to inquire into the working of the office. After careful consideration the Secretary of State for the Colonies approved of the scheme of reorganisation provided for by the above-mentioned enactment.

The leading feature of the new law as compared with the old is, that the Government now only interfere where private individuals are unable to act for themselves.

Provision is made for the administration of plantations in cultivation and for the carrying on of trade undertakings by receivers, subject to the direction of the Supreme Court of Civil Justice. The new law and the rules made under it also very much simplify the procedure in respect of estates required to be administered by the Administrator General.

Ordinance No. 16 gives power to the court to appoint administrators to administer the estates of deceased persons and regulates the charges for commissions.

In it there is an important amendment of the common law of the Colony relating to the devolution of property, whereby in the case of spouses married in community of property and one of the

spouses dying intestate without leaving any child or descendant of any child surviving who is entitled to inherit, the surviving spouse becomes entitled to one half the inheritance left by the deceased, or in other words to one quarter such property. Whereas before the passing of the law the surviving spouse would not have participated in any portion of the common property belonging to the deceased spouse.

The Ordinance also contains another important alteration whereby the hardship of wills being declared inofficious under certain circumstances is put an end to.

Ordinance No 17 gives persons appointed to the administration of property the power of applying to the court for its guidance in matters of difficulty or where they are unable to decide for themselves, and provides a summary process for the determination of questions that might arise in such administration.

No. 18.—"To provide for the proper regulation of the Crown lands, forests, rivers, and creeks of the Colony."

This is an amendment of the law of 1873 giving more ample powers for dealing with the Crown lands of the Colony. There is a new departure in the provision now made for the issue of grants for rice cultivation and of licences to collect ballata, india-rubber, gums, and fruits on the Crown lands; also for the issue of free grants of land by the Governor and Court of Policy.

The price at which forest land is to be sold is fixed at not less than five dollars (1*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*) per acre. For the purpose of cultivating rice the land may be obtained at an annual rental of one dollar (4*s.* 2*d.*) per acre.

The fees for annual licences to collect ballata, india-rubber, &c., and to purchase the same, are respectively fixed at 4*s.* 2*d.* and 2*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* A royalty of one cent per pound is also imposed on purchases of those substances. The licences to collect gums and fruits are issuable for six months and upon payment of a fee of 1*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

No. 19.—"To make special provision for the construction and maintenance of sea defences on the west sea coast of the county of Demerary."

This enactment, though limited in its operation to one portion of the Colony, is of importance as carrying into effect a principle of action which if successful would undoubtedly be generally adopted.

It provides machinery for combined action on the part of the proprietors on the west sea coast, enabling them to appoint Commissioners with powers to construct and maintain defences, to employ their own engineers, to maintain wood-cutting grants and quarries; also to raise loans and recover the cost of the works by assessment on the plantations benefitted, subject, however, to the control of the Governor and Court of Policy.

This district, which contains an area of 22,800 acres, has long suffered from inroads of the sea, but it is confidently hoped that the above enactment will mark a new era in the history of the district, by enabling the proprietors to construct permanent works under skilled advice.

BRITISH GUIANA.

11. *Proclamations.*—The action of the Government of Venezuela in granting certain concessions purporting to give rights and privileges for constructing a railway to Guacipati, and in and over territories and lands within British Guiana, called forth a proclamation from the Government on the 31st December intimating that no alleged rights claimed under such concession would be recognised within the Colony, and that all persons found trespassing on or occupying the lands of the Colony without the authority of the Government would be dealt with as the law directs.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

12. No change has been made in the political franchise. As however an amendment of the political constitution has been proposed by a motion made in the Court of Policy on the 22nd of November and unanimously agreed to: "That the members of "this court be requested to co-operate with the Governor in "considering the question of an amendment of the political con-"stitution of the Colony with a view to secure wider representation "of the inhabitants," and as the question is engaging public attention both in the Colony and parent country, it may be convenient to state here in a few words the nature of the franchise.

The county franchise is determined by the possession of three acres of land under cultivation or of house property of 20*l.* annual rental; by the occupancy for three years of 6 acres of land under cultivation, or for one year of house property of 40*l.* annual rental; or in the electoral division in which an elector resides, by his possession of an income of 125*l.*, or payment of 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* direct taxes to the Colonial revenue.

The town franchise is determined by the possession of house property of the value of 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* or occupancy of the same at an annual rental of 25*l.*; or in the electoral division in which an elector resides, by possession of an income of 125*l.*, or payment of 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* direct taxes.

Aliens possessing the above qualifications are entitled to vote after a residence in the Colony for a space of three years before the election.

All persons so qualified claiming the right to vote are required to be registered in lists prepared at the close of each year in the three county electoral districts by the several stipendiary magistrates exercising jurisdiction therein, and in the towns by the municipal authorities of the same.

The lists are revised by the Registrar of British Guiana, and are thereafter published in the "Official Gazette" and in one other newspaper of the Colony.

The number of electors so registered was, on 31st December, 1,418, as compared with 1,233 registered in 1886. From these numbers it will be self-evident that a comparatively small proportion of the inhabitants at present avail themselves of their right to enrol as voters.

The electoral divisions are:—No. 1. The county of Demerara (exclusive of Georgetown) which returns one member to the College of Electors and one member to the Financial College.

No. 2. The city of Georgetown, returning two electors and one financial representative. No. 3. The county of Essequebo returning one elector and one financial representative. No. 4. The county of Berbice (exclusive of the town of New Amsterdam) returning one elector and one financial representative; and No. 5. The town of New Amsterdam, likewise returning one elector and one financial representative.

To be eligible for a seat in the Court of Policy a person must possess not less than 80 acres of land within the Colony, 40 acres whereof shall be actually and *bonâ fide* under cane cultivation.

The qualifications for seats in the Colleges of Electors and Financial Representatives are more varied. They may be either (1) through the possession of land on the same conditions as for a seat in the Court of Policy; (2) the possession by freehold or by lease for 21 years or upwards of house or house and premises, of which the rental or value per annum shall be at least 250*l.*; or (3) the possession of a clear annual income of 300*l.*, derived from property in the Colony or from profits of trade or profession carried on within the Colony.

Councils and Assemblies.

13. *Court of Policy.*—During Mr. Bruce's administration of the Government from 28th May to 26th August Mr. Villiers, C.M.G., occupied a seat as Acting Government Secretary, and Mr. Melville a seat as Auditor General, and during Mr. Bruce's administration in December Mr. Melville occupied a seat as Acting Government Secretary. In the absence on leave of Mr. Haynes Smith, C.M.G., Mr. Alfred Kingdon occupied a seat as Acting Attorney General. Mr. Mulligan at the close of the annual session of the Combined Court vacated his seat, and was re-elected thereto.

14. *Combined Court.*—Mr. H. R. W. Greig, Mr. A. J. Pitman, Mr. J. S. Hill, and Mr. H. Sproston, Junr., resigned in consequence of departure from the Colony, and were succeeded by Mr. D. C. Cameron, Mr. A. R. Gilzean, Mr. M. Bugle, and Mr. R. J. van R. De Groot.

Civil Establishment.

15. *Deaths.*—There were 14 deaths amongst public officers holding appointments in the Colony, five of which occurred during absence on leave and one by drowning, viz.:—

Dr. Henry Hutson*	aged	65	Government Medical Officers.
„ E. W. Corner*	„	28	
Rev. Canon W. T. Veness* -	„	59	Rector, Church of England.
„ C. D. Dance	„	63	Curate „ „
„ W. Harper	„	52	Minister, Church of Scotland.
Col. G. Foster Foster	„	66	Stipendiary Magistrate.
Mr. C. E. Luckie*	„	57	Harbour Master.

* Died whilst absent on leave.

BRITISH GUIANA.

Mr.	G. H. Schurer*	aged	42	Accountant Registrar's Office.
„	A. Vanier	„	55	Sworn Clerk, Registrar's Office.
„	G. W. Stack	„	44	Customs Officers.
„	E. A. Hubbard	„	43	
„	T. Vandenburgh	„	52	
„	W. W. Walton	„	36	Superintendent, Alms House.
„	C. S. Hill†	„	21	Clerk, Surgeon General's Office.

16. *Appointments, Promotions, &c.*—The principal changes occurring in the public service during the year were as follows:—

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Turner Irving, K.C.M.G., was absent from the Colony on leave from the 28th May to the 26th August, during which period the Government was administered by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Chas. Bruce, C.M.G. Mr. F. Villiers, C.M.G., Auditor General, acted as Government Secretary, and Mr. Geo. Melville, Assistant Government Secretary, as Auditor General.

On the 24th December, Sir Henry Irving relinquished the Government, and pending the arrival of his successor, the Right Hon. Viscount Gormanston, K.C.M.G., the administration again devolved upon the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Geo. Melville on this occasion acted as Government Secretary.

On the 5th May, Mr. W. A. M. Sheriff was appointed to be a puisne judge, in the room of Mr. J. T. Goldney, transferred to the Straits Settlement.

Mr. Alfred Kingdon was appointed Solicitor General on 29th January in the vacancy caused by Mr. N. Atkinson's advancement to the Bench. In the absence on leave of the Hon. W. F. Haynes Smith, C.M.G., from 28th May to 21st October, Mr. Kingdon acted as Attorney General. Mr. C. S. Davson, Barrister-at-Law, acted as Solicitor General during that period.

Mr. Alex. Gordon was appointed to the magistracy and entered upon his duties on the 1st December.

Mr. A. G. Thompson retired on pension from his appointment of Assistant Colonial Civil Engineer, and was succeeded on the 23rd April by Mr. M. B. Jamieson.

Mr. G. C. Benson, Superintendent of the Government Telegraphs, retired on pension, and the duties were provided for by the appointment on the 23rd December of Mr. S. Vyle, as electrician in the Postal Department.

Drs. J. K. Reid, A. T. Ozzard, and J. S. Hutton were added to the staff of the Medical Department to supply the vacancies which occurred through deaths and the retirement on pension of Dr. J. H. Forte.

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* Died whilst absent on leave. † Was drowned in the Essequebo river.

In the Clergy Establishment the following changes occurred, viz.:—

The Rev. C. B. Seifferth succeeded to the vacant rectory caused by the death of Canon Veness.

The Rev. Francis Welch was appointed to the curacy of All Saints', in succession to the Rev. H. Dawes.

The Rev. Thomas Slater, Minister of St. Andrew's Parish, retired on pension after 22 years' service, and was, on the 21st October, succeeded by the Rev. W. B. Ritchie, M.A.

The Rev. A. H. Anderson on the 28th April entered upon the duties of minister of St. Saviour's Parish, to which he had been appointed in succession to the Rev. Jas. Huskie, who retired on pension in 1886.

SECURITY.

17. At the annual inspection of securities it was found that 136 officers in positions of trust gave security for the due discharge of their duties, and the sums for which they were liable varied from 52*l.* to 6,000*l.*

There are still eight officers who do not subscribe to the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund, they having prior to the establishment of the fund executed the usual security bonds for the sums for which they were answerable. The receipts of the fund during the 12 months ended 30th September 1887 amounted to 404*l.* 13*s.* 10½*d.*, and the total amount at credit on that date was 2,638*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* The sums guaranteed by the fund aggregated at the close of that period 51,393*l.* 15*s.*, of which sum 40,966*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* was in respect of officers holding permanent appointments, and 10,427*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* in respect of acting appointments.

PENSIONS.

18. The pension list of 1887 contained the names of 47 pensioners, and amounted to 10,171*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* Six pensioners, with pensions in the aggregate of 72*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* per annum, were added to the list during the year, and by the death of four pensioners an annual sum of 51*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* lapsed.

PUBLIC OFFICERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

19. The receipts of the fund—derived from abatements of 4 per cent. from salaries of 100*l.* and upwards of all public officers and from interest on moneys invested—amounted to 9,266*l.* 2*s.* as against 9,317*l.* 8*s.* in 1886. There were 122 pensioners on the books of the fund on the 31st December as against 110 at the close of the preceding year. The pensions paid during the year amounted in the aggregate to 8,360*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, showing an increase over 1886 of 368*l.* 19*s.* 7½*d.* The credit balance of the fund was 59,692*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* The number of officers contributing was 368, of whom 232 were married.

BRITISH GUIANA.

POPULATION.

20. *Estimated Population.*—The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December 1886 was 274,311. The increase by excess of immigration over emigration amounted to 2,757. There was an excess of 30 deaths over the births as shown by the registration returns. The population is therefore estimated at 277,038 on the 31st December 1887. The area of the Colony being for the purpose of comparison taken as 109,000 square miles, the population would be at the rate of 2·54 to the square mile as compared with 2·51 in 1886.

21. *Births and Deaths.*—The returns of births show that the number registered during the year was 8,947, a decrease on the births in 1886 of 714, but the returns for that year appear abnormal and exhibit the highest number hitherto registered in any one year.

The deaths registered during the year amounted to 8,979, and were 1,965 in excess of the number in 1887.

IMMIGRATION.

22. *Immigration.*—The number of immigrants introduced during the year was 4,356 souls from Calcutta, equivalent to 3,771 statute adults, and as compared with 1886 there was an increase of 757 statute adults. The number who returned to India during the year was 1,276 statute adults, being, as compared with the number returned in 1886, a decrease of 419.

	£	s.	d.
The sums deposited with the Government by these immigrants for remittance to India amounted in the aggregate to - - -	16,169	9	10
And the value of the jewellery they carried away is estimated at -	3,125	0	0
Making their total savings equal to	19,294	9	10

The returns furnished to the Immigration Department under the provisions of the immigration laws showed the Indian immigrant population resident on estates to be on the 31st of December 1887 -	70,827
And the number not resident on estates is estimated at - - - -	31,919
Representing a total Indian immigrant population of - - - -	102,746

Or 27 per cent. of the entire population of the Colony.

The prosperity of the immigrants has been before alluded to in these reports. In the year under review the sum at their credit in the Government Savings Bank amounted to 91,375*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*

The balances of estates of deceased indentured immigrants paid into the Treasury by the Administrator General aggregated 169*l.* 1*s.* 2½*d.*, whilst for money orders there was received at the Treasury the sum of 948*l.* 3*s.* 9½*d.*

EDUCATION.

23. *Queen's College.*—The number of students in this institution on 31st December 1887 was 66. Twelve students from Queen's College were successful at the Cambridge Local Examination held in December 1887, and the Guiana scholarship has been awarded to one of these, an over-age candidate, who sat specially for the scholarship and took first-class honours with marks of distinction.

24. *Elementary Schools.*—Government aid, amounting in the aggregate to 20,644*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, was granted to 162 schools, distributed as follows, viz.: In Georgetown, 25; New Amsterdam, 7; County Demerara, 61; Berbice, 35; Essequebo, 28; and mission schools, 6. There were on the registers 21,225 children, whose average attendance during the year was 12,820. The number present at inspection was 18,097, of whom 12,355 were examined, and 9,406 passed, the passes being 73 per cent. of the average attendance.

The average attendance which had increased in 1886 by 695, was further increased by 1,497, and satisfactory progress was made in the schools, the passes in the higher standards being 21·3 of the full number of passes.

25. *School for Vagrant Boys and Youthful Offenders.*—There were 150 boys in the school on 31st December, as compared with 142 in the preceding year. Sixty-five acres of land are in cultivation and the industrial pursuits of the inmates yielded a return of 461*l.* 16*s.* The cost of the institution was 2,409*l.*, or about 13*l.* 1*s.* per head.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

26. *Value of Imports.*—The imports of 1887 were valued at 1,603,175*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, showing a increase of 166,877*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* as compared with the imports of the preceding year.

BRITISH GUIANA.

27. *Articles of Food.*—The following is a comparative statement of the principal articles of food imported in the Colony during the years 1886 and 1887 :—

Statement of the Principal Articles of Food imported during the Years 1886 *and* 1887.

	1886.		1887.		Quantity.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Increase.	Decrease.
		£		£		
Beef, pickled - brls.	8,015	18,055	7,712	16,098	—	303
Bread - - lbs.	556,800	5,604	845,962	7,352	289,162	—
Butter - - lbs.	651,029	21,765	698,298	22,973	47,269	—
Corn and pulse - bush.	100,761	19,289	159,177	32,443	58,416	—
Oat and cornmeal - lbs.	1,209,604	4,008	1,798,280	6,213	588,676	—
Fish, dried - quint.	100,873	57,376	79,584	50,609	—	21,289
Flour - - brls.	123,488	100,894	142,210	111,783	18,722	—
Lard - - lbs.	527,677	7,102	639,751	9,050	112,074	—
Onions - - lbs.	1,272,166	4,663	2,374,803	4,800	1,102,637	—
Pork - - brls.	16,832	36,358	16,623	46,523	—	209
Rice - - lbs.	33,635,132	170,793	43,744,028	197,381	10,108,886	—

28. *Exports.*—The value of the exports was 2,190,592*l.* 6*s.* 7½*d.* As compared with the exports of the preceding year there was a satisfactory increase of 348,006*l.* 16*s.* 10½*d.*

The following is a comparative statement of the value of exports in the years 1886 and 1887 :—

Comparative Statement of the Value of Exports in the Years 1886 *and* 1887, *showing the Increase or Decrease in* 1887 *in each description of Export.*

Articles.	Value.		Increase in 1887.	Decrease in 1887.
	1886.	1887.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sugar - - -	1,457,740 18 2	1,798,637 14 2	340,896 16 0	—
Rum - - -	153,596 14 8	139,664 1 3	—	13,932 13 5
Molasses - - -	55,763 4 1	44,209 5 9	—	11,553 18 4
Gold - - -	23,342 3 8	44,427 11 8½	21,085 8 0½	—
Timber - - -	14,205 16 4	11,198 11 6½	—	3,007 4 9½
Charcoal - - -	6,806 0 7	7,449 9 8	643 9 1	—
Gum, Balata - -	2,978 18 7½	3,498 7 4½	519 8 9	—
„ other - -	1,793 19 5	2,020 10 9	226 11 4	—

Articles.	Value. 1886.	Value. 1887.	Increase in 1887.	Decrease in 1887.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Shingles	1,003 5 7	2,370 5 9	1,367 0 2	—
Hides and horns	2,028 11 5½	3,555 2 5½	1,526 11 0	—
Cocoanuts	752 14 11½	1,137 1 2½	384 6 3	—
Bird skins and feathers	1,289 2 3	948 1 0	—	341 1 3
Plants	1,562 2 1	499 10 6	—	1,062 11 7
Cocoa	52 2 6	388 16 0½	336 13 6½	—
Isinglass	625 2 9	338 5 0	—	286 17 9
Cattle and live stock	759 7 6	300 0 0	—	459 7 6
Bread, biscuits, &c.	227 5 10	236 13 8	9 7 10	—
Cassava starch	798 6 8	169 13 4	—	628 13 4
Firewood	195 12 6	165 0 4	—	30 12 2
Fibre	105 1 8	160 9 3	55 7 7	—
Arrowroot	22 3 9	153 6 8	131 2 11	—
Plantains and plantain suckers.	1,185 12 1	144 6 4	—	1,041 5 9
Corn and pulse	349 16 10	67 1 8	—	282 15 2
Coffee	11 4 2	9 11 8	—	1 12 6
Miscellaneous	4,285 19 0½	1,738 4 2½	—	2,547 14 10
Total Colonial produce	1,731,481 7 2	2,063,487 1 3½	367,182 2 6	36,176 8 4½
Total foreign produce	111,104 2 7	127,105 5 4	—	—
Total exports	1,842,858 9 9	2,190,592 6 7½	—	—
Net increase, Colonial produce, in 1887	332,005 14 1½	—	332,005 14 1½	—
Net increase, foreign produce, in 1887	16,001 2 9	—	—	—
	2,190,592 6 7½	2,190,592 6 7½	—	—

29. *Direction of Trade.*—The following comparative statement shows the direction and value of the trade of the Colony in 1886 and 1887 :—

Countries.	Imports. 1886.	Imports. 1887.	Exports. 1886.	Exports. 1887.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	787,052	916,417	1,071,432	1,147,988
United States	295,864	317,021	562,616	813,773
British North America	101,072	94,930	33,022	42,316
British West Indies	36,866	32,577	44,084	31,905
Bermuda	367	413	3,051	4,934
India	143,464	169,589	308	458
Foreign countries other than United States	69,162	72,228	127,483	148,687
African Possessions	2,450	—	589	531
Total	1,436,297	1,603,175	1,842,585	2,190,592

BRITISH GUIANA.

The following figures show the diversion of the export trade from the United Kingdom to the United States, viz.:—

Exports.

—	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
United Kingdom, per cent. of total exports -	76·	71·	58·	52·
United States, per cent. of total exports -	12·	17·	30·	37·

SHIPPING.

30. *Vessels.*—The number of vessels entered and cleared at the two ports of the Colony, Georgetown and New Amsterdam, during the year was as follows:—

—	Ports.	Entered.			Cleared.		
		No.	Tons.	Crews.	No.	Tons.	Crews.
Steam vessels.	Georgetown -	164	137,932	6,429	162	136,965	6,554
	New Amsterdam -	—	—	—	4	2,818	95
	Total - -	164	137,932	6,429	166	139,783	6,649
Sailing vessels.	Georgetown -	764	183,013	6,771	768	186,710	6,825
	New Amsterdam -	33	7,047	233	30	6,705	216
	Total - -	797	190,060	7,004	798	193,415	7,041
Total steam and sailing vessels - -		961	327,992	13,433	964	333,198	13,690

As compared with the year preceding there was an increase in the number of vessels visiting the ports of the Colony:—

—	Vessels.	1886.		1887.		Increase in 1887.		Decrease in 1887.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered.	Steam vessels -	168	141,964	164	137,932	—	—	4	4,032
	Sailing do. -	784	175,950	797	190,060	13	14,110	—	—
	Total - -	952	317,914	961	328,992	13	14,110	4	4,032

—	Vessels.	1886.		1887.		Increase in 1887.		Decrease in 1887.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Cleared.	Steam vessels -	161	137,100	166	139,783	5	2,983	—	—
	Sailing do. -	767	172,831	798	193,415	32	20,584	—	—
	Total - -	928	309,931	964	333,738	37	23,547	—	—

AGRICULTURE.

31. *Sugar Industry.*—The total area of land in cultivation and occupied by sugar plantations, as per acreage returns of 30th June 1887, was 80,681 acres, of which 76,570 acres were in canes. The remaining 4,111 acres were in plantains. The area in canes shows an increased cultivation of 367 acres.

In the report for 1886 a comparison was drawn of the exports for the five preceding years of sugar, rum, and molasses, and it was then shown that the value of sugar fell from an average in 1883 of 20*l.* per hhd. to an average in 1886 of 11*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* Better prices prevailed during the year now under report and the average value of sugar exported rose to 13*l.* 11*s.* 4½*d.* per hhd.

The exports were :—

		£
Sugar	149,860 hhds., value - -	2,063,487
Rum	24,829 puns., „ - -	264,849
Molasses	19,019 casks, „ - -	44,209

The average yield per acre of cane cultivation, as deduced from acreage and export returns, was 1·9 hhd. of sugar as compared with 1·6 in 1886.

The heavy rains which fell in the early part of the year seem to have been favourable to the growth of the sugar cane, and the crop for the year is the largest on record in the annals of the Colony.

32. *Minor Industries.*—The statistics for the year show a slight improvement in the cocoanut, rice, cocoa, and arrowroot industries.

The export of *cocoanuts* was 99,048 more than in the preceding year, while of fibre the increased export represented a value of 55*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*

Cocoa was exported to the extent of 13,019 lbs., valued at 388*l.* 16*s.* as compared with 1,968 lbs., valued at 52*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* in 1886.

The cultivation of *rice* is being encouraged, but the quantity consumed in the Colony is so great that it is questionable whether it will ever form an article of export. One grant of 10 acres on the East Coast Savannah was taken up at the close of the year under the new regulations which came into effect on the 25th May.

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The export of *arrowroot* was 14,528 lbs., valued at 153*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, as compared with 2,800 lbs. in 1886, valued at 22*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

Bananas.—A new industry is presaged in the cultivation of the banana. The demand for this fruit abroad has attracted attention, the soil of the Colony bring admirably suited to its culture. Five small shipments, amounting together to 5,375 bunches, valued at 188*l.* 16*s.*, were exported to London in the steamer *Nonpariel* which has been specially fitted up with apparatus for fruit trade with the tropics. It is, however, to the United States that the cultivators look for a natural market for their product.

33. *Prices of Articles for Consumption.*—The prices of bread and meat fell during the year and the average prices were lower than in 1886. Bread was sold at 2½*d.* per pound loaf, fresh beef at from 6*d.* to 8*d.* per lb., salt beef and pork at from 5*d.* to 6*d.*, salt fish at from 2*d.* to 4*d.* per lb. The prices of vegetables were subject to greater fluctuations, owing no doubt to the inundation of provision lands from the excessive rainfall in the early part of the year. Plantains were sold in the city at from 4*d.* to 2*s.* 4*d.* per bunch, and yams at from 1*d.* to 1¾*d.* per lb.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

34. *Manufactures.*—No new manufactures were added to the existing industries.

35. *Mines.*—The gold industry still excites interest. As already adverted to, the law has been amended so as to provide for granting mining concessions. Companies have been formed for the purpose of quartz mining, but from various reasons mining has not yet been commenced. The industry received a sudden check in the month of June through a misapprehension of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the dispute with the Government of Venezuela on the boundary question. Confidence was ultimately restored upon the announcement on 27th September in the Court of Policy by the Governor, Sir Henry Irving, that he was authorised to issue licences for concessions within Schomburgk's projected boundary line without the restrictions which the Government had previously been instructed to place on them.

There were 32 licences for placer claims issued during the year, representing an area of 498 acres. With the exception of three claims on the Wyamoe Creek, Cuyuni river, all these claims were located on the Puruni river or its tributaries. The export of gold obtained from washings was 11,906 ozs. as compared with 6,518 ozs. in 1886.

GRANTS OF LAND.

36. Eleven licences of occupancy and 27 woodcutting licences were issued during the year for an area of 8,672 acres, a further decrease of 2,321 acres as compared with the area granted in 1886

Eleven of the licences were for grants of 100 acres and under, 24 for tracts of above 100 acres and not exceeding 500 acres, and three for tracts of more than 500 acres each.

There was an increase of two woodcutting licences, as compared with the number issued in 1886. The timber exported amounted to 222,217 cubic feet, valued at 11,198*l.*, as compared with an export in 1886 of 222,968 cubic feet, representing a value of 14,205*l.*

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

37. *Police Reports.*—The number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates was 9,242, a further decrease of 2,221 compared with the number reported in 1886.

38. *Apprehensions and Summonses.*—The manner in which the cases brought before the magistrates' courts in 1886 and 1887 were disposed of was as follows:—

	1886.	1887.
Convicted - - - - -	11,245	10,389
Discharged - - - - -	7,543	7,053
Acquitted - - - - -	5,734	4,616
Sent on to higher courts - - -	398	336
Total - - - -	24,920	32,394

39. *Convictions.*—The total number of summary convictions in the magistrates' courts was 10,389, as compared with 11,245 in the preceding year and 12,430 in 1885; while in the superior courts there were 243 convictions as compared with 272 in 1886, and 341 in 1885. There was in 1887 an increase in prædial larceny, but a decrease in other offences against property, as is shown by the following figures:—

	1885.	1886.	1887.
Prædial larceny - - -	628	169	284
Other offences against property -	1,745	1,158	935

BRITISH GUIANA.

40. *Punishments.* — The punishments inflicted in the magistrates' courts in 1886 and 1887 are shown in the following comparative statement :—

Punishment.	1886.	1887.
Fine - - - - - -	55·05	54·55
Peremptory imprisonment - - -	10·10	11·34
Imprisonment in lieu of fine or surety -	30·26	29·73
Whipping - - - - -	1·31	3·31
Bound over with or without sureties - -	3·28	1·07

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

41. The number of prisoners committed for the purposes of penal imprisonment was 4,221, while 1,806 were committed for safety till trial or for want of security. 1,742 prisoners (1,298 males, 311 females, and 133 juveniles) had been previously convicted—of these, 1,352 once, 318 twice, and 72 three times or more. The daily average number in prison was 770, as compared with 885 in 1886 and 880 in 1885.

There were 1,367 admissions to the prison hospitals, and 23 cases of sickness resulted fatally, as compared with 2,672 admissions and 12 deaths in 1886. The daily average on the sick list was 29 as compared with 26 in 1886. One execution took place during the year. On nine occasions as compared with 12 in 1886 whipping was inflicted for offences within the prison walls, in three cases with the cat and in six cases with the birch. There was also a decrease of 583 in the number of other punishments inflicted, the other punishments during 1887 being 2,567 as against 3,150 in 1886.

HOSPITALS.

42. *Admissions.*—There were 701 patients in the public hospital at Georgetown at the commencement of the year, an increase of 107 on the number at the same time of the year 1886. The number of patients admitted for treatment during the year was 9,879 as compared with 7,701 in the preceding year.

The admissions of patients to the public hospital at New Amsterdam were 2,541 as compared with 2,068 in 1886. As in the preceding year, there were 97 patients in hospital at the commencement of the year.

Fifty-six patients were in the Suddie Hospital at the commencement of the year and 773 were admitted, as compared with 685 in the previous year; while in the free hospital at Massaruni there were two patients on the 1st January and 165 admissions during the year, an increase of 95 as compared with the previous year, owing, no doubt, to this hospital being the

nearest to the gold fields. It is proposed to remove the hospital from the Penal Settlement to a site on the other side of the river more conveniently situated for the public.

43. *Out-patients*.—29,639 out-patients, an increase of 1,537 on the previous year, were treated at the public hospital in Georgetown; 2,041 as compared with 4,400 at the hospital at New Amsterdam; 1,420 at Suddie; and 494 at Massaruni.

44. *Discharges.*—The number of patients discharged was as follows:—

———	Georgetown.	New Amsterdam.	Suddie.	Massaruni.
Cured - - -	3,707	1,967	425	68
Relieved - - -	4,241	309	171	63
Not improved - -	933	54	59	16
Total -	8,881	2,330	655	147

45. *Deaths.*—There were 975 deaths in the hospital at Georgetown, as compared with 758 in 1886.*

In the New Amsterdam Hospital there were 204 deaths as against 148 in 1886; in the hospital, Essequebo, 128 as against 82 in the previous year; and at Massaruni Hospital 17 as against 5 in 1886.

46. *Diseases.*—The following is a comparative table of the diseases treated at the four public hospitals, and of the deaths from such diseases, for the years 1886 and 1887 :—

Diseases.	Georgetown.				New Amsterdam.			
	1886.		1887.		1886.		1887.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Zymotic - - -	2,344	45	3,074	88	1,015	77	1,276	103
Constitutional - -	959	239	1,021	318	42	9	73	16
Local - - - -	3,441	438	4,501	509	917	46	1,034	62
Developmental - -	213	26	304	48	57	12	60	21
By violence, &c. - -	511	10	412	10	134	4	195	2
Other diseases - -	—	—	199	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	7,468	758‡	9,511	973†	2,165	148	2,638	204

* The number of deaths was 975; 2 deaths were not accounted for in the statement of diseases treated.

† 122 moribund on admission.

‡ 87 moribund on admission.

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(*continued.*)

Diseases.	Suddie.				Massaruni.			
	1886.		1887.		1886.		1887.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Zymotic - - -	224	19	250	44	23	1	84	7
Constitutional - -	62	21	81	30	1	1	6	1
Local - - - -	371	34	414	41	32	2	39	5
Developmental - -	40	7	57	11	5	1	10	2
By violence, &c. - -	23	1	28	2	9	—	19	2
Other diseases - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - -	720	82*	830	128†	70	5	158	17

* 10 moribund on admission. † 13 moribund on admission.

The cases treated in all the public hospitals amounted in the aggregate to 13,137, and the deaths to 1,324, showing a mortality of 10 per cent. of cases treated.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

47. *Admissions.*—The admissions were 186 (122 males and 64 females). The daily average number in the asylum was 574, an increase of 65·6 as compared with 1886.

48. *Discharges.*—Forty-three inmates (29 males and 14 females) were discharged as cured, and five males and one female left relieved, making a total of 49 discharges.

49. *Deaths.*—There were 88 deaths (49 males and 39 females) in the institution. In 16 instances the deceased suffered from "Bright's" disease.

50. *Form of Mental Disorders.*—The cases in the asylum at the close of the year were classified as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
Maniacal and dangerous - -	113	59
Quiet chronic - - - -	166	82
Melancholy and suicidal - -	64	32
Idiotic, paralytic, and epileptic - -	53	29
Total - - - -	396	202

LEPER ASYLUMS.

51. The accommodation for males consists of three two-storey buildings raised on brick pillars and 20 huts. The females occupy six one-storey buildings on pillars.

At the close of the year there were at the asylums 365 inmates (288 males and 77 females); 176 males and 31 females were admitted during the year; 69 inmates died, the mortality being 13 per cent. on the cases in the asylums during the year.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH RETURNS.

52. *Postal.*—For transacting the postal business of the Colony there is an establishment consisting of a General Post Office at Georgetown, 60 post offices throughout the Colony, and seven travelling offices. Thirty-six of the district post offices are also telegraph stations, and at 21 offices money order business is transacted.

The number of letters, &c. posted during the year is estimated at 1,199,798 as compared with 1,237,038 in 1886. There was a satisfactory increase in the money order transactions, the inland orders issued being 8,196, for a total value of 11,551*l.*, as compared with 7,282 orders or a total value of 11,044*l.* in the preceding year; while the total value of foreign orders issued was 38,868*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, an increase of 5,538*l.* 17*s.* 5½*d.* upon the transactions of 1886. The revenue from foreign parcel post was 155*l.* 11*s.* 11½*d.*, and the sum collected for Customs dues was 251*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* Three thousand and thirty-two parcels were received and 1,046 despatched.

53. *Telegraph.*—The Government telegraph extends along the entire inhabited sea coasts of the Colony, from plantation *Sparta*, in the county of Essequebo, to plantation *Skeldon*, in the county of Berbice, a distance of 260 miles.

The telegraph receipts exhibit a falling off of 205*l.*, the receipts for 1887 only amounting to 2,414*l.*, as compared with 2,619*l.* in 1886, and 2,660*l.* in 1885. The expenditure was 1,039*l.* 15*s.* 11½*d.* The number of messages sent was 60,239, of which 6,059 were on Government service and the remainder were ordinary messages.

A Government telephone, with 37 subscribers, is attached to the General Post Office.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

54. Meteorological observations were taken throughout the year at the botanic gardens in the suburbs of Georgetown.

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The subjoined table shows the monthly rainfall, which varied from 20·45 inches in January to ·12 inches in November :—

Month.	Rainfall.	Month.	Rainfall.
January - - -	20·45	July - - -	8·45
February - - -	16·39	August - - -	2·72
March - - -	7·48	September - -	1·22
April - - -	6·40	October - - -	·52
May - - -	5·95	November - -	·12
June - - -	6·91	December - -	7·67
	63·58		20·70
			63·58

Total rainfall for the year - - - 84·28 inches.

SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

55. The information under these heads in given in the new form supplied by the Colonial Office.

Savings Bank.—The first savings bank in the Colony was established by the Government in Georgetown, county of Demerara, in the year 1836. The system was extended in 1843 to the town of New Amsterdam, in the county of Berbice. A branch bank was opened at Suddie, in the county of Essequebo, in 1879, and in 1884 another branch bank was opened at Belfield Village, on the east coast of Demerara. The banks are under the management of the Colonial Receiver General, and are worked by a staff of 12 officers. The minimum deposit and withdrawal is fixed at 1*s.*

The existing system is generally admitted to be inadequate to meet the wants of the community, and a proposal is before the Legislature from the Postmaster General for a system of post office savings banks either to supplant the present system or to supplement it and thus afford in an economical manner to residents in country districts increased facilities to bank their savings.

A proposal has also been submitted by the Colonial Receiver General for an extension of the present system to other districts of the Colony.

On the 31st December there were 13,600 depositors in the Government savings banks with deposits amounting in the aggregate to 201,289*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* The deposits during the year amounted to 114,502*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* and the withdrawals to 108,628*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, exhibiting an increase at the credit of depositors

of 5,874*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* as compared with the close of the preceding year. The funds are invested in Government securities and on open loan to the Colony. The revenue for the year amounted to 8,040*l.* 17*s.* 7½*d.*, and the interest paid at the rate of 3 per cent. on deposits amounted to 5,453*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*

56. *Friendly Societies.*—There were at the close of 1887 six friendly societies in operation in the Colony, four of which were established for the usual charitable purposes, one—The British Guiana Building Society—with 248 members, for the purpose of aiding in the purchase, building, or improvement of immovable property, and one, with 31 members, for the cultivation of minor industries. The number of members of all the societies together amounted to 1,159, with invested funds aggregating 9,820*l.* 13*s.* 7½*d.*, of which 7,765*l.* 15*s.* 2½*d.* belonged to the Building Society and 1,145*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* to the Land Cultivation Company. The other societies do not appear to be in so prosperous a condition.

Railway, Canals, and Roads.

57. *Railway.*—The only line of railway in the Colony extends from the city of Georgetown to Mahaica, a distance of 20 miles along the east sea-coast of the county of Demerara. It was constructed by the Demerara Railway Company, and is still owned by them. The line when first opened for traffic on the 3rd November 1848 extended only to the village of Plaisance, a distance of about 5 miles, and it was further extended to the present terminus at Mahaica in the year 1864. The gauge is 4 feet 8½ inches.

The total cost of construction is returned at 280,000*l.*; the total receipts for the year 1887 were 35,768*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, while the expenditure was 21,174*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

58. *Canals.*—The principal canals are those locally known as Nos. 1, 2, and 3, on the Demerara river; Nos. 1 and 2 on the left and No. 3 on the right bank of the river. They were constructed as waterways for the inland estates, but most of these estates are now abandoned or semi-abandoned. The cost of maintaining the canals falls upon the owners of the estates. Those on the left bank are included in the Government polder scheme for that district, and are being deepened and extended in connexion with the scheme.

59. *Roads.*—The public road or Queen's highway extends from North Essequebo in the west of the Colony to the Corentyne river, its eastern boundary, and is estimated at 268 miles. One hundred and forty-three and one half miles are maintained by the Government from public funds, and the remaining 124 miles by the proprietors of the several sugar estates through which the road runs. The expenditure by the Government on the up-keep of that portion for which it is responsible was in 1887 20,091*l* 6*s.* 7*d.*

BRITISH GUIANA.

GENERAL REMARKS.

60. The Jubilee of Her Majesty's reign was celebrated in the month of September with great acclamation throughout the Colony, and never before has there been witnessed in British Guiana such a unanimous outburst of loyalty from the various nationalities which compose its population. It is proposed to erect a marble statue of Her Majesty in the city of Georgetown as a permanent memorial.

61. The general health was not so good as in the preceding year, but no epidemic disease visited the Colony.

62. No serious breaches of the peace occurred, and on the whole tranquillity and contentment prevailed during the year. The criminal statistics exhibit a gradual decrease of crime, which it is most satisfactory to note. A comparison of the per-centages of convictions to the estimated population in each of the three last years shows the following result:—

1885.	1886.	1887.
4·7	4·1	2·8

63. In conclusion, it may be remarked that notwithstanding the continued low price of sugar, the staple product, the statistics for the year indicate that the Colony is advancing. Much credit is due to the sugar planters for their indomitable energy in pursuing their industry and making costly improvements in machinery, &c. in the face of the heavy loss they sustained through the operation of the sugar bounties in foreign countries, and the abolition of those bounties is a consummation earnestly desired in the interest of this and other British sugar-producing Colonies.

(Signed) F. W. COLLIER,
Acting Assistant Government Secretary.

Government Secretary's Office,
17th July 1888.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 9.

HELIGOLAND.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1888.

LONDON:
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1888.

[C.—5249.—6.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Price.
		d.
1	Virgin Islands (1886) - -	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues (1886).	2
3	Gambia (1886) - - -	1
4	Victoria „ - - -	2½
5	New Zealand „ - - -	5
6	Tobago (1887) - - -	1
7	Gibraltar „ - - -	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to Eastern Districts, 1888).	1

No. 9.

HELIGOLAND.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5071]; 1885 [C.—4842]; 1884 [C.—4404]; 1883 [C.—4015]; 1881 [C.—3388].]

Governor Sir TERENCE O'BRIEN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Heligoland,
April 14, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Lordship's favourable consideration the annual Blue Book returns of this Colony for 1887, which have as usual been prepared by the Government Secretary, Mr. Gätke.

General Remarks.

2. In an Island so dependent on its bathing season for its prosperity as this is, it is not surprising that there should be a decrease (as compared with 1886) in some of the items of receipts, seeing that in September last the weather, at a moment when the season was at its height, and our expenses were greatest, was most unfavourable; notwithstanding this, however, and the shorter average stay of the visitors, I am happy to be able to report that on the whole the prosperity of the Island, and its popularity as a health resort, is steadily increasing, thanks to the existing easier and more frequent means of access.

3. The following figures commencing from 1881 (the year before that in which I assumed the Government) will, I think, best support the foregoing assertion, and that if the Colony has progressed, works of utility have not been neglected.

4. The class of our visitors remains as varied as ever, *i.e.*, from Royalty downwards, while the increase in the proportion of English is considerably in excess of that of other nationalities.

——	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Visitors, exclusive of excursionists	No. 3,534	No. 4,912	No. 5,922	No. 6,592	No. 7,338	No. 8,343	No. 9,612
Revenue* - - - -	£ 6,975	£ 6,675	£ 7,412	£ 8,336	£ 7,948	£ 11,715‡	£ 8,820
Expenditure* - - - -	7,745	6,555	7,424	7,701	7,717	11,786§	8,475
„ on public works -	815	688	1,239	1,187	1,232	2,246§	2,320
Public debt† - - - -	5,154	4,947	4,697	3,548	3,313	—	—
Temporary loans - - -	1,200	125	250	150	—	—	—

* Exclusive of 800*l.*, Governor's salary, paid from home.
† Including 500*l.* owing to Crown Agents, but not charged for till 1885.
‡ „ 2,500*l.* grant-in-aid from home.
§ „ expenditure on repairs to Government House, 453*l.*, repaid to England.

o 54235. Wt. 18427.

HELIGOLAND.

Political.

5. In common with other parts of Her Majesty's dominions it afforded much pleasure to the Heligolanders to be able to present to their Queen their congratulations on her Jubilee; to this end a characteristic and artistically designed address, signed by almost the entire adult population, was forwarded for her acceptance, together with a rug from the feathers of the birds which frequent our rock, made up in the colours of the Island, which was transmitted with an address in Heligolandish, as an offering from the women of the Colony on this occasion.

Revenue and Expenditure.

6. The gross revenue for the year amounted to 8,820*l.* 10*s.* 4½*d.*, from which, if 115*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* (an extraordinary receipt for salvage) be deducted, it will be found that the nett Colonial income was 8,704*l.* 11*s.* 7½*d.*

7. The total expenditure being 8,475*l.* 7*s.* 4½*d.*, or, deducting 50*l.* (an advance made on account of imperial funds recovered after the first of last January), 8,425*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*

8. These amounts show an excess of revenue over expenditure of 279*l.* 4*s.* 3½*d.*, and a decrease in expenditure of 826*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, as compared with the figures of 1886.

Public Debt.

9. There is no public debt, and I am in hopes that, except through some unforeseen circumstance, there is no chance of the Island relapsing into its former chronic state of indebtedness.

Public Works.

10. Finding that the frost was damaging the cliff, so that the safety of the steps connecting the upper and lower towns was threatened, I had the face of the rock scarped and cemented—a heavy work.

11. During the year the pier was completed, and as it is not only raised but is nearly double its former width, it now forms an agreeable promenade, as well as a great addition to the comfort of the islanders and passengers when landing from the boats.

12. The works for the reclamation of Sandy Island have been steadily prosecuted with most favourable results; I therefore hope that with continued proper care the threatened danger to this essential dependency may be averted.

13. The wire fence (commenced in 1886) running round the upper cliff to prevent accidents was also completed last year.

14. Two of the principal streets were re-laid and paved, and improvements in the lighting generally were effected. Trees were planted, &c. &c.

15. And last, though not least, I am happy to be able to report that I hope a permanent water supply has been obtained by the sinking in the lower town last year of three Abyssinian wells, a great boon, as the Island previously was entirely dependent on one brackish spring and on rain water collected in tanks; in long droughts, therefore, the people suffered very considerably, while a water famine was often much to be dreaded, a fear which is now happily removed.

Legislation.

16. In 1887 two Ordinances were put in force, and five were submitted for approval before the 31st December. Of the former, No. 1 of 1887 was to provide labour for the preservation of Sandy Island, and No. 2 for the protection of the Post Office.

Those under consideration comprised:—

1. An amended School Ordinance.
2. A copyright protection for photographs, drawings, &c.
3. An enactment to prevent the building of houses in the town of inflammable materials.
4. A law to regulate the carrying of guns, shooting, &c.
5. An ordinance defining the position of aliens in the Colony.

All of which will come into force this spring.

Salaries, Civil Service, Pensions.

17. The expenditure under this head remained unchanged, except by the increase consequent on the appointment of such officials as were necessary to carry out the Sanitary Ordinance (No. 3 of 1886).

18. There were no mutations among the Government servants, except that the Wreck Receiver was changed when the chief boatman-in-charge of the Coast Guard was relieved.

Population.

19. The excess of births over deaths was 23, and the death statistics continue to prove the exceptional healthiness of the Island, for out of the 29 deaths recorded last year but 3 were of children under one year; 6 were of persons between one and six, the remainder being between 60 and 90; giving, on the 26 cases, an average longevity of 66 years, or of 59·3 on the whole.

HELIGOLAND.

20. The following figures (equally from 1881) will show the unusually small death-rate in childhood and youth, as well as the abnormal longevity of the Heligolanders, though they mostly lead a very hard life, exposed as fishermen in the North Sea.

	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Deaths under 1 year - -	4	2	1	5	4	4	3
„ from 1 to 20 - -	—	4	1	2	3	6	2
„ „ 20 to 60 - -	10	10	14	12	5	3	3
„ „ 60 upwards -	16	12	18	15	25	22	21
Total - -	30	28	34	34	37	35	29

Post Office.

21. The establishment last year of a winter bi-weekly mail communication between the Island and Cuxhaven, which is connected by rail with Hamburgh, has been of great advantage to the Colony.

22. The following Post Office statistics afford, as I explained last year, perhaps the best obtainable data, in the absence of banks, for testing the prosperity of the Island; the difference in the details of the two years are very slight, and vary in about the same proportions as do the returns of revenue and expenditure.

Received in Heligoland.

Year.	Number of				Number of Letters of Value declared.	Amount in Letters of Value declared.	Number of Post Money Orders.	Amount of Post Money Orders.
	Letters.	Post Cards.	Book Post.	Parcels.				
						£		£
1881 - -	26,251	3,838	9,976	2,253	244	5,751	547	2,581
1882 - -	32,238	5,664	15,453	2,823	261	7,350	503	2,331
1883 - -	35,528	6,734	15,324	2,963	321	7,311	668	2,808
1884 - -	38,013	8,006	16,079	3,713	287	7,152	594	2,633
1885 - -	39,900	8,267	17,099	3,810	288	8,266	688	2,783
1886 - -	43,086	8,980	17,933	3,963	314	8,685	704	2,935
1887 - -	42,891	9,655	16,138	4,514	311	8,434	698	3,021

Despatched from Heligoland.

Year.	Number of				Number of Letters of Value declared.	Amount in Letters of Value declared.	Number of Post Money Orders.	Amount of Post Money Orders.
	Letters.	Post Cards.	Book Post.	Parcels.				
						£		£
1881 - -	23,069	12,522	363	1,279	138	6,970	1,664	9,205
1882 - -	29,549	18,837	781	1,495	173	8,455	1,647	9,128
1883 - -	32,855	21,403	894	1,656	224	9,917	1,979	9,731
1884 - -	35,393	28,410	805	2,043	294	12,316	2,245	10,637
1885 - -	33,841	28,525	1,474	2,330	270	12,277	2,307	10,780
1886 - -	37,550	39,074	1,421	2,414	248	13,439	2,214	10,888
1887 - -	37,195	42,258	1,477	2,738	262	12,220	2,309	11,757

Shipping.

23. The only direct communication with England has been, as heretofore, by the men-of-war and Trinity House vessels that bring stores for the Government and lighthouse establishments, or through the visit of an occasional yacht, or of smacks fishing in these waters.

24. Last year we had during the season no less than 29 steamers plying regularly every week between this and the neighbouring ports of Hamburg, Cuxhaven and Bremerhaven, as well as with the Islands of Jöhr and Nordeney; so that many tourists passing through the Frisian Islands and watering places have visited us. A new arrangement, moreover, of trains, not only enabled visitors to leave Berlin in the morning and be in Heligoland in the evening, and *vice versâ*, but also, by the inauguration of the day route *viâ* Flushing, passengers and letters leaving London in the morning of one day could thereby be in Heligoland between 1 and 2 p.m. next day, or in all, in about 30 hours.

Crime.

25. There has been no serious crime among the Heligolanders; seven English smacks-men, however, were brought up before the Upper Court; five for theft (two of whom also committed perjury); of these four were sent to England to undergo their sentences under the Colonial Prisoners Removal Act (47 & 48 Vict. cap. 31), and one was tried, but acquitted, for manslaughter at sea. Though some of these fishermen are most orderly, there are others who, I am sorry to say, give great trouble when they call in here.

Education.

26. The general tuition, and teaching of English in our schools, is progressing as well as can be expected, and as the crowded state

HELIGOLAND.

of the several rooms will admit; the numbers of children in each class are as under:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Cubic Space per Head.
			Feet.
First master - - -	34	36	85
Second „ - - -	47	42	80
Third „ - - -	50	48	63
Fourth „ - - -	52	42	61

27. The classes are too large for the attention of one man, and too crowded for the size of the rooms. Want of funds has, however, for the present prevented the erection of more school buildings, though I hope it will not be long before they be constructed, when the crowding will be relieved, and I trust a female teacher will be obtained. Till now no female tuition of any sort has been provided by Government, the only attempt in that direction being a sewing school started by and attended by Lady O'Brien, which is so popular with the parents that now from 80 to 100 little girls attend for two hours on their half holidays (Wednesdays and Saturdays), and really turn out most excellent work.

Fisheries.

28. The spring fishery was indifferent, and the winter catches absolutely nil. I fear this industry, like that furnished to the Heligolanders formerly by pilotage, must die out if they do not get a harbour. The lobster fishery was an average one. The oyster bank, owing to the low prices ruling on the Continent, was only fished for local consumption at the end of the bathing season.

Hospitals.

29. No alteration in our hospital has taken place during the year. The sons of the late R. C. Rickmers, Esq., who, in addition to his many acts of charity and benevolence here and elsewhere, considerably rebuilt the church of his native land, have intimated that, in accordance with their deceased father's wish, they are ready to build a new hospital and asylum for the aged; they have submitted the necessary plans last year, which are now under consideration as to certain alterations and improvements; so there is every reason to hope that before the end of 1888 these buildings will be completed or at all events on hand.

Lunatic Asylum.

30. None exists, but I hope by having one or more rooms in the new hospital made suitable for the insane that this great want will

be supplied, so as to meet a disease that is unfortunately so prevalent among the population owing to the causes I showed in my last year's report.

Charitable Institutions.

31. The free reading room, alluded to in my last year's report as being established and supported by me for the use of the fishermen in winter, is gaining greatly in popularity; for this last winter it has been every evening as full as possible, the attendance having doubled. There are now some 700 volumes belonging to the institution, and newspapers both in English and German are taken in for the use of the inhabitants.

Meteorological.

32. At my instigation the Council of the Meteorological Department agreed last year to start a station here, and the secretary (Mr. Scott) having kindly come over to superintend the putting up of the instruments, the observatory was established in August last, and will I hope not only be of benefit to this branch of science, but will enable more accurate data than was formerly obtainable from the old and imperfect instruments at our disposal to be forthcoming per future Blue Book statistics.

Savings Bank (Postal).

33. This institution is working very satisfactorily, for if it is but slowly gaining ground it is making as much progress as I could expect among so peculiarly suspicious and conservative a race. The number of adult depositors has increased, and as the children grow up I hope, from being in early life accustomed to put by their little savings, habits of thrift and economy will be inculcated, which will break down the existing system of credit and indebtedness which obtains, in preference to ready-money transactions, so generally among the Heligolanders.

Government House

34. Is in good order; the furniture is, however, as already reported, mostly very old and unsuitable; a few additions and repairs have been made during the year; the Governor has still to provide glass, plate, cutlery, linen, and nearly all the crockery, making Heligoland an exception to other Colonial Possessions.

Telegraphs.

35. The Hamburg and Heligoland Telegraph Company has worked well and regularly during the past year; the amount of telegrams that passed through the office has greatly increased, the number being for the year 9,448.

HELIGOLAND.

36. The transfer to the German Government of the United German telegraph lines should not affect our service, as the two companies are separate. I, however, hear that our company will be compelled in consequence of this transfer to alter its constitution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. O'BRIEN, Lieut.-Colonel,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 35.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1888.

LONDON:
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1888.

[C.—5249.—38.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	,,	2
3	Gambia - - -	,,	1
4	Victoria - - -	,,	2½
5	New Zealand - -	,,	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	,,	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	,,	1
11	Straits Settlements - -	,,	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turk's Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	,,	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	,,	1
18	St. Helena - -	,,	½
19	Barbados - -	,,	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 1887)	,,	1
21	Bahamas - -	,,	½
22	Labuan - - -	,,	½
23	Malta - - -	,,	1½
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	,,	3
25	St. Vincent - -	,,	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	,,	1
27	Leeward Islands - -	,,	3½
28	British Guiana - -	,,	2
29	Western Australia -	,,	½
30	Falkland Islands - -	,,	1
31	Basutoland - -	,,	1½
32	St. Lucia - - -	,,	1½
33	Hong Kong - -	,,	1½
34	Fiji - - -	,,	3

No. 35.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

[For previous Reports *see* 1886 [C.—5071] ; 1885 [C.—4904] ; 1884 [C.—4583] ; 1883 [C.—4193] ; 1882 [C.—4015] ; 1881 [C.—3388].]

Governor GOLDSWORTHY to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Belize,
June 21, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, in duplicate, the Blue Book for the year 1887, together with the report thereon by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROGER TUCKFIELD GOLDSWORTHY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

With the sole exception of the impulse given to the fruit trade the year 1887 was not productive of any startling feature in the economical status of this Colony.

Legislation.

Ordinance No. 5, which provides for the better collection of the Excise duty, was only to come into force on the 1st January 1888, and is therefore a dead letter in the reckoning of 1887.

Ordinance No. 8, however, which paved the way for the currency proclamation, which was also to come into force on the first of this year did harm as soon as it appeared, for speculators were able before the end of the year to see that some coins which were not demonetised in the proclamation, but were received in America as a commodity only, might lead to speculation, and thus even before the Royal proclamation as to the standard currency could come into force almost all the coin of that standard had disappeared from the country.

Ordinance No. 9 reduced attestation fees by half the previous amount, and this was a boon to the labourers.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Finance.

The revenue fell short of the expenditure by $14,158·46, but the advances to the Town and Harbour Improvements Fund amounted to $8,702·65, and if this amount, entirely advanced out of revenue, be deducted from $14,158·46 it reduces the actual deficit to $5,455·81.

The following table shows the actual revenue and expenditure for the last nine years; that is, from 1879, when the tariff was re-adjusted :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	$	$	$	$
1879 - -	201,620	253,500	—	51,880
1880 - -	216,170	189,615	26,555	—
1881 - -	218,210	203,560	4,650	—
1882 - -	231,920	222,500	9,420	—
1883 - -	261,385	201,715	59,670	—
1884 - -	259,330	267,925	—	8,595
1885 - -	261,225	316,175	—	54,850
1886 - -	271,806	312,773	—	40,967
1887 - -	280,139	294,298	—	14,159
Averages -	244,649	251,340	Average deficit 7,795	

At first sight this table is apt to mislead, for although it is undoubted that the Colony for the last nine years has spent $7,795 yearly more than its income, still the deficit is not attributable to a systematic downfall in the working capacities of the country.

The table is almost as much a meteorological table as a financial one; for the staple product of the Colony being mahogany, the revenue has exceeded the average each year that the floods in the high levels have enabled the mahogany logs to float down to the bars of the several rivers for shipment out of the country, and has been below it whenever these floods have been wanting or insufficient.

Thus the following table, showing the export of mahogany for the last five years :—

	$
1883 - - - -	504,885
1884 - - - -	474,385
1885 - - - -	258,705
1886 - - - -	369,999
1887 - - - -	264,426

if compared with the table of revenue, will show that the prosperous mahogany years 1883 and 1884 produced the prosperous financial

years 1883 and 1884, and that the deficit in 1887 corresponds with the bad mahogany results of that year.

The expenditure in the same way, which in the year 1885 rose to its highest figure $316,175, is only another indication of the surplus accumulated during the good mahogany years 1883 and 1884, which justified greater expenditure on public works.

The question, however, whether the country ought in the future to be subject to the fluctuations in the mahogany trade for its economical condition is one which the year 1887 has answered in the negative.

A careful study of the export trade indicates how this has been brought about.

The following table of imports and exports reveals some important facts:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1883 - - - -	1,344,865	1,514,345
1884 - - - -	1,187,690	1,587,245
1885 - - - -	1,274,280	1,221,400
1886 - - - -	1,179,813	1,400,234
1887 - - - -	1,097,721	1,349,709
Average - -	1,216,874	1,414,587

In the first place the value of the import trade has decreased by $247,144 in five years; but on the other hand the export trade has decreased by $164,636.

Without for a moment underrating the serious loss to the commercial world of such sums, still it must be borne in mind, as will presently be shown, that the loss is wholly in the bonded foreign goods which were consigned from England or the United States to Belize merchants, and by them exported in the sailing vessels of the country to the neighbouring States of Yucatan, Guatemala, Spanish Honduras, and Nicaragua, and not in the actual produce and requirements of the Colony.

For instance, if the average imports of the Colony for the last five years be reduced by the actual loss of exports, that is to say, if $1,216,874 be reduced by $164,636, the difference between the exports of 1883 and 1887, it will be seen that the imports of 1887 exceed by no less than $45,483 the average which should apply to that year, viz., $1,052,238.

This reduction in the transit trade may, or indeed is likely to, continue for a while longer owing to the simultaneous development of the fruit trade all along the shores of the Caribbean sea, which has caused the establishment, within the last four years, of direct lines of steamers between the United States and the above named

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Republics. Owing to these steamers, ports like Livingstone, Puerto Cortez, and Truxillo import their goods direct instead as heretofore through Belize houses.

In proof of this the following table of imports from the United Kingdom and the United States compared with one of the exports to the countries named is interesting:—

Imports.

——	United Kingdom.	United States.
	$	$
1883 - - - -	744,155	452,735
1884 - - - -	638,010	409,730
1885 - - - -	553,385	450,335
1886 - - - -	470,147	465,355
1887 - - - -	477,606	407,389

The difference between the years 1883 and 1887 in the import trade from both countries amounts therefore to $311,895.

Export Trade.

——	Guatemala.	Honduras.	Mexico.	Nicaragua.
	$	$	$	$
1883 - -	67,920	165,375	67,755	50,650
1884 - -	54,640	159,285	38,470	39,030
1885 - -	54,485	126,365	35,585	36,975
1886 - -	48,526	100,096	30,658	45,709
1887 - -	20,094	131,879	11,727	27,121

The year's losses indicated by this table are, therefore, equal to in respect of—

	$
Guatemala - - - -	93,935
Honduras - - - -	106,578
Yucatan (Mexico) - - -	154,580
Nicaragua - - - -	38,352
Total -	393,445

The totals compared with the total difference in the general import and export revenues table between 1887 and 1883 show the correctness of the remark as to the falling off in the transit trade.

Colonial Products.

A more serious matter is the consideration of the principal products of the Colony, of which a comparative table is annexed, and the decline which it indicates in all products save logwood and fruit. Sugar was some $45,000 behind the average sum it should have yielded, but the year 1887 showed an advantage over 1886 in this article of commerce for which the soil of the Colony is eminently fitted.

Rum, rice, cigars, tobacco, rubber, rosewood, all showed a falling off; but the rise in logwood, in bananas, in oranges, limes, mangoes, and pines more than compensated for the loss on the other products, and the sudden impulse given to the fruit trade by the demand of the American market is likely to revolutionize in the end the state of things which for so long has held good in British Honduras.

Prospects.

A class of men have grown up side by side with the old mahogany cutters whose cultivation of the soil is fast becoming so productive as to render indispensable the enlargement of those means of communication which can get their fruit to America in good condition and increased quantities.

The extension of a mail service, which by the end of 1887 had become a necessity, must, if carried out, stimulate in the future both immigration and the construction of a railway.

The latter, though long since requisite, owing to the difficulty of getting the wood from the interior to the sea coast has, through the increased fruit and logwood trades, become indispensable, while any effort to construct such a railway in the presence of the millions of tons of logwood which its advent in the west would tap immediately must repay at the very outset the cost of its introduction into the Colony.

The Legislative Council, acknowledging the paramount necessity of a line of railway, issued in November 1887 a series of resolutions embodying the conditions upon which it empowered the Government to treat with contractors, and did not stint these conditions by any illiberal restrictions.

In truth, it is an anomaly which on the face of it is not very creditable to British rule that the only English Colony in Central America should be the most backward in the way of telegraphs, railways, and steamers; that of the two former there should not yet exist a symptom, and that of the latter, only steamers under an American flag should be carrying the mails.

This condition of things is easy of explanation with the present population, and the vast tracts of land which are unsurveyed, uncultivated, or even unexplored.

COMPARATIVE TABLE of Principal Exports from the Colony during the last Five Years.

Year.	Mahogany.	Logwood.	Bananas.	Sugar.	Rum.	Rice.	Cigars.	Tobacco.	India-rubber.	Oranges and Limes.	Rosewood.	Mangoes and Pines.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1883 - -	504,885	257,545	38,140	4,445	11,795	1,495	5,085	1,610	32,950	165	600	310
1884 - -	474,385	297,715	39,345	204,785	14,860	2,185	3,765	580	43,475	45	2,050	555
1885 - -	258,705	311,175	41,270	129,145	18,675	3,060	2,045	1,110	46,585	165	1,165	345
1886 - -	369,999	457,071	81,444	63,187	39,152	3,370	4,730	1,899	56,955	977	1,312	429
1887 - -	264,426	464,425	115,152	78,767	19,124	2,405	3,697	351	42,747	626	347	868
Average -	374,480	357,586	63,070	96,066	20,721	2,503	3,864	1,110	44,543	395	1,095	501
1887 above average.	Nil	106,839	52,082	—	—	—	—	—	—	231	—	367
1887 below average.	110,054	—	—	17,299	1,597	98	167	759	1,796	—	748	—

	$
1887 +	159,519
1887 −	132,518
	27,001 to the good.

Population.

The corrected total of the population for 1887 was 27,668, which is only 210 more than in 1881, when the census was taken. Applying the revenue of the country to this number it will be seen that the taxation is equal to $10, a little more than half the taxation per head in Great Britain.

Area.

The area of the Colony being 7,562 square miles, or 4,839,680 acres, of which in 1887 only 44,654 acres were in cultivation, and the total obtained from the land and property tax $11,792.

Sixty-nine square miles out of 7,562 is all that is opened out; and it is clear, therefore, that were a railway to open out the land not in cultivation, the revenue from land tax, sales of land, and licenses to cut timber, would largely increase.

Education.

In 1887 there were 27 elementary schools, costing the Government on an average about $528 each, and receiving voluntary contributions amounting to $165 per school.

The daily attendance was 1,794 out of 2,612 on the registers, or according to usual computation only one half of the number of children that should attend in a population of 27,000.

Police.

The population paid in 1887 no less than $1·24 a head for its protection, and showed itself orderly.

Only 1 in 54 was committed to prison.
„ 1 in 107 admitted to the public hospital.
„ 1 in 7,000 admitted to the lunatic asylum.

Health.

The prevalent cause of admission to the hospital was intermittent fever, of which there were 68 cases, but no deaths; and the greatest number of deaths from one disease was eight from heart affection.

In conclusion, it may be well to repeat what has been said by those who have written previous reports on this Colony, inasmuch as their remarks hold good now as then, while the rapid development of an industry at the birth of which only they assisted gives point and strength to the reasoning which brought them forth.

In 1885 Governor Goldsworthy wrote that "if the Colony is to "emerge from the condition of stagnation in which it has been for

BRITISH HONDURAS.

" years past, with large tracts of land at its disposal, it will be by " the efforts of those who turn their attention to agriculture and " the rearing of cattle, &c. rather than to mahogany cutting, but " we shall not obtain settlers if we do not assist them by giving " them easy means of communication."

Again in the same report " immigration must not be neglected, " it has been the making of British Guiana and other Colonies " and further, " given the means of developing her resources " British Honduras may become as well known for her flourishing " condition as in the past she has been unrecognised, but she will " make no progress or advance if we leave nature unaided."

Last year Mr. Fowler, then administering the Colony, wrote " if agriculturists at home could only find their way to the Colony " and embark in tropical farming or cattle raising they would gain " a comfortable living and an estate of their own in a few years."

Immigration to provide a labour market, a railway to render the rich products of the Colony accessible, these are the wants of British Honduras, and in the words of Mr. Fowler, now Colonial Secretary at Trinidad, " it will be a reproach if a British Colony " cannot compete with the neighbouring States of Honduras, " Guatemala, and Nicaragua, who threaten to wrest all trade from " the Colony and keep it in their own hands."

The soil is bountiful, the hands are few, the virgin forests are rich, the roads to their midst are scarce.

Let the hands be there to cultivate the soil, and a railway be made to open out the forests, and it will be difficult, seeing its geographical position and the capacity of its harbour, to prevent Belize from becoming in a short while the principal port of Central America, and the entrepôt between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through its easy communication with Guatemala.

HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM,
Colonial Secretary.

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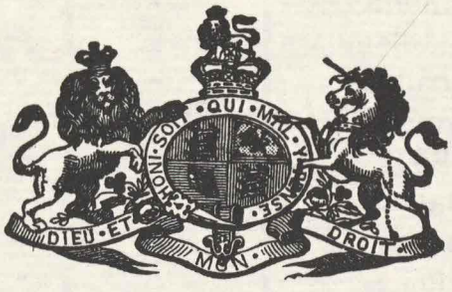
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 33.

HONG KONG.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249.—30.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements - -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turk's Islands -	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 1887).	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent - - -	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	„	1
27	Leeward Islands - -	„	3½
28	British Guiana - -	„	2
29	Western Australia - -	„	½
30	Falkland Islands - -	„	1
31	Basutoland - - -	„	1½
32	St. Lucia - - -	„	1½

No. 33.

HONG KONG.

[For previous Reports *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4904]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3642]; 1880 [C.—3208].]

Sir G. W. DES VŒUX to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Hong Kong,
August 2, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, the Hong Kong Blue Book for 1887, together with the usual report of the chief clerk.

2. I much regret the late date of transmission. The Colonial Secretary's Office has been so pressed with other work as to render earlier completion impracticable.

I have, &c
(Signed) G. W. DES VŒUX,

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK and DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS for 1887, presented to the Legislative Council by Command of His Excellency the Governor.

1.—TAXATION.

There have been no changes under this head.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue amounted to $2,582,723 81, or excluding premiums from land sales to $1,427,485 79; and the expenditure amounted to $2,023,002 06, including extraordinary works; excluding these, to $1,278,181 68.

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HONG KONG.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years have been :—

Year.	Revenue.	Premiums from Land.	Ordinary Expenditure.	Extraordinary Expenditure, including Defensive Works.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1883 - -	1,289,448 29	25,718 65	1,162,247 14	180,052 10
1884 - -	1,173,071 48	19,695 00	1,254,634 77	340,763 62
1885 - -	1,251,889 70	66,658 50	1,146,103 15	475,147 24
1886 - -	1,367,977 74	34,731 59	1,195,236 81	825,624 84
1887 - -	1,427,485 79	155,238 02	1,278,181 68	744,820 38

3.—LOCAL REVENUES.

The Chinese inhabitants contributed in 1887, by voluntary assessment among themselves, to the pay of the district watchmen $3,012 17, and received from the Government a grant in aid of $2,000 00.

4.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December 1887 the assets of the Colony exceeded its liabilities by $631,374 08.*

The surplus assets in :—

	$ c.
1883 were - - -	1,067,200 52
1884 „ - - -	729,562 02
1885 „ - - -	427,692 42
and in	
1886 the liabilities exceeded the assets by - - -	191,512 29

5.—PUBLIC DEBT.

A public debt of 200,000*l.* was raised in England by the Crown agents for the Colonies in virtue of Ordinance 11 of 1886.

* A loan having been raised during the year.

6.—Military Expenditure.

The military expenditure (inclusive of the Volunteer Corps) defrayed by the Colony during the last five years has been as follows:—

	Military Contribution, exclusive of Defensive Works, and inclusive of Volunteer Corps	Defensive Works.
	$ c.	$ c.
1883 - - - -	111,962 09	—
1884 - - - -	114,498 78	3,464 64
1885 - - - -	117,337 00	72,564 45
1886 - - - -	124,561 68	217,901 45
1887 - - - -	128,815 63	258,444 28

7.—Government Buildings.

Government House.

Government House was maintained in repair, and the sanitary arrangements were satisfactory.

8.—Public Works.

Several public works were completed during the year, among which may be mentioned:—

(*a.*) Sanitary works costing over $93,000.
(*b.*) New market at Hunghòm.
(*c.*) Extension of light-keeper's quarters on Green Island.
(*d.*) Defensive works, above referred to, to the extent of $258,444 48.

9.—Legislation.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year:—

No. 1 of 1887.—An Ordinance entitled "The Post Office Ordinance, 1887."
No. 2 of 1887.—An Ordinance to amend the Promissory Oaths Ordinance, 1869.
No. 3 of 1887.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 8 of 1879.

HONG KONG.

No. 4 of 1887.—An Ordinance for promoting the Revision of the Statute Law by repealing certain enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary.

No. 5 of 1887.—An Ordinance to amend the Law respecting Defamatory Words and Libel.

No. 6 of 1887.—An Ordinance to regulate the carrying and possession of Arms.

No. 7 of 1887.—An Ordinance to remove doubts as to the application of Ordinance No. 2 of 1875.

No. 8 of 1887.—An Ordinance for the Suppression of the Triad and other unlawful Societies, and for the punishment of the Members thereof.

No. 9 of 1887.—An Ordinance for the better protection of young Girls.

No. 10 of 1887.—An Ordinance to abolish Transportation and Penal Servitude and to substitute other Punishment in lieu thereof.

No. 11 of 1887.—An Ordinance for the more effectual Prevention of Crime.

No. 12 of 1887.—An Ordinance entitled "The French Mail Steamers Ordinance continuation Ordinance, 1887."

No. 13 of 1887.—An Ordinance entitled "The German Mail Steamers Ordinance continuation Ordinance, 1887."

No. 14 of 1887.—An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law for the Establishment and Regulation of the Police Force of the Colony.

No. 15 of 1887.—An Ordinance authorising the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation to continue incorporated for the further term of Twenty-one years.

No. 16 of 1887.—An Ordinance empowering the Courts to award Whipping as a further punishment for certain Crimes.

No. 17 of 1887.—An Ordinance entitled "The Cattle Diseases, Slaughter-Houses, and Markets Ordinance, 1887.

No. 18 of 1887.—An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Law relating to Jurors.

No. 19 of 1887.—An Ordinance to enable the Trustees of the Rhenish Missionary Society to sell and dispose of certain Leasehold property within the Colony of Hong Kong.

No. 20 of 1887.—An Ordinance for the naturalisation of Ch'an Kwok Ying.

No. 21 of 1887.—An Ordinance to consolidating the Law relating to various Licenses.

No. 22 of 1887.—An Ordinance for the better regulating of the trade in Opium.

No. 23 of 1887.—An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 16 of 1887.

No. 24 of 1887.—An Ordinance for amending the Laws relating to Public Health in the Colony of Hong Kong.

No. 25 of 1887.—An Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Three hundred and Ninety-two thousand Four hundred and Sixty-two Dollars and Thirty Cents to defray the Charges of the Year 1886.

No. 26 of 1887.—An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding One million One hundred and Seventy-six thousand Four hundred and Forty-nine Dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1888.

10.—Council and Assemblies.

Executive Council. — The Hon. W. M. Deane, Captain Superintendent of Police, was admitted a member of the Executive Council.

Legislative Council.—The Hon. H. G. Thomsett, R.N., harbour master, was confirmed in his appointment as a member of the Council.

The Hon. A. P. MacEwen was nominated by the Chamber of Commerce in the room of the Hon. T. Jackson, resigned.

The Hon. J. Bell-Irving was appointed in the room of the Hon. W. Keswick, resigned.

The Hon. C. P. Chater was nominated by the justices of the peace in the room of the Hon. F. D. Sassoon, resigned.

Sanitary Board.—Mr. Stewart having been appointed Colonial Secretary his place on the Board was filled by Mr. Lockhart, the Registrar General.

The following acting appointments were made to the Sanitary Board during the year:—

Dr. Jas. Cantlie, *vice* Mr. N. J. Ede, on leave.

Mr. W. E. Crow, *vice* Mr. H. McCallum, on leave.

Board of Examiners.—There was no change in the constitution of the Board during the year.

Medical Board.—Dr. Jas. Cantlie was appointed Acting Secretary, *vice* Dr. Hartigan, on leave.

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11.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.

The Hon. W. H. Marsh, C.M.G. (now Sir Wm. Marsh, K.C.M.G.), Colonial Secretary, retired from the Service on the 25th April 1887. The Government was thereupon administered by His Excellency Major-General Cameron, C.B., until the arrival of Sir G. William Des Vœux, as Governor, in October 1887.

The Hon. Frederick Stewart, Registrar General, was confirmed in his appointment as Colonial Secretary, and

J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Esq., Assistant Colonial Secretary, as Registrar General.

Several changes occurred in various departments consequent upon officers going on leave of absence.

12.—OFFICERS WHO HAVE GIVEN SECURITY FOR THE DISCHARGE OF THEIR DUTIES.

The validity of the sureties of the various officers was duly inquired into at the end of every quarter, and found to be satisfactory.

13.—PENSIONS.

The following officers retired on pension during the year:—

Sir Wm. H. Marsh, K.C.M.G., Colonial Secretary and Auditor General.

C. J. Whairry, M.D., Superintendent, Government Civil Hospital.

J. J. Chapman, head turnkey of the gaol.

Joseph Christo, first class assistant turnkey in the gaol.

Tarrah Singh, second class guard in the gaol.

Bedell Lee Yun, first interpreter in the magistracy.

Herah Singh, first class guard in the gaol.

Mary Collins, matron of the gaol.

Thomas F. Grey, inspector of police.

1 Chinese police constable.

8 Indian police constables.

4 European police constables.

14.—EXPENDITURE OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS.

The amounts paid during the year on account of the Establishments were:—

Payments in Great Britain in sterling money, 23,444*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*

Payments in the Colony in local currency, $656,988 05.

15.—FOREIGN CONSULS.

No new Consulates were established in the Colony during 1887.

16.—Population.

The estimated population on the 31st December 1887 was as follows:—

Males - - - -	152,427
Females - - - -	60,524
Total - - - -	212,951

which is 11,961 more than the estimated population at the end of 1886.

The last census was taken in 1881, the population being then returned as 160,402, of which 115,369 were males and 45,033 females.

The following is the mean estimated population for the last six years:—

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1882 - - -	119,704	46,729	166,433
1883 - - -	124,768	48,707	173,475
1884 - - -	130,560	50,969	181,529
1885 - - -	137,079	53,515	190,594
1886 - - -	144,550	56,440	200,990
1887 - - -	152,427	60,524	212,951

The births and deaths for the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Births.	Deaths.	Per 1,000 of Mean Population.	
			Births.	Deaths.
1883 - - - -	1,509	4,712	8·70	27·16
1884 - - - -	1,551	4,311	8·54	23·74
1885 - - - -	1,555	5,192	8·16	27·24
1886 - - - -	1,557	5,100	7·74	25·37
1887 - - - -	1,705	5,317	8·01	24·97

17.—Ecclesiastical Establishments.

There were no changes in these establishments as compared with previous years.

HONG KONG.

18.—EDUCATION.

The total number of schools subject to supervision by the Government amounted in 1887 to 94, as compared with 90 in 1885 and 1884.

The total number of scholars subject to Government supervision in the Government and grant-in-aid schools during the last five years was as follows:—

Years.	Government.	Grant-in-aid.	Total.
1883 - -	2,080	3,517	5,597
1884 - - -	1,978	3,907	5,885
1885 - - -	1,803	4,041	5,844
1886 - - -	1,893	3,951	5,844
1887 - - -	1,814	4,160	5,974

The total expenditure for these schools for the last five years was as follows:—

		c.
1883 - - - -	35,412	26
1884 - - - -	36,758	14
1885 - - - -	36,085	27
1886 - - - -	43,085	50
1887 - - - -	43,070	91

19.—EXCHANGE, MONEYS, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Exchange.

The rate of exchange on four months' bills on London fell from 3*s.* 4½*d.* per dollar on the 18th of January to 3*s.* 1*d.* on the 12th April.

During the year it fluctuated between these two rates, closing with 3*s* 1¾*d.* in the latter end of December.

Currency.

The law affecting currency has remained unchanged.

Bank Notes.

The bank notes in circulation in Hong Kong during the last five years, as furnished by the managers of the respective banks, were as follows:—

Years.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
	$	$
1883 - - - -	5,099,661	1,779,166
1884 - - - -	4,114,787	1,810,033
1885 - - - -	4,080,071	2,000,833
1886 - - - -	4,368,705	2,138,333
1887 - - - -	5,052,473	2,362,833

Money Circulation.

The approximate amount of coin put into circulation up to 31st December 1887 was as follows:—

Hong Kong dollars and half dollars struck at the Hong Kong Mint - - $1,421,487

Hong Kong silver and copper subsidiary coins (20, 10, and 5 cent pieces; and 1 cent and mil pieces) - - - $2,481,181.

The importation of copper coin has been discontinued.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in use in the Colony are regulated by Ordinance 8 of 1885.

20.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

There being no Custom House it is not possible to furnish an account of the imports and exports.

21.—SHIPPING.

Arrivals exclusive of Junks.

The total arrivals, exclusive of junks, during the year 1887 amounted to 4,078 vessels and 4,607,914 tons, being an excess of 36,618 tons over the arrivals in 1886.

Junks.

23,521 junks measuring 1,793,923 tons arrived in the Colony in 1887, as against 22,971 junks and 1,752,868 tons in 1886, showing an increase of 550 junks and 41,055 tons.

HONG KONG.

The total arrivals for the last five years were:—

Years.	Exclusive of Junks.		Junks.		Grand Total.	
	No. of Vessels.	Tons.	No. of Vessels.	Tons.	No. of Vessels.	Tons.
1883 -	3,399	3,450,428	24,258	1,851,239	27,657	5,301,667
1884 -	3,290	3,479,637	23,473	1,687,594	26,763	5,167,231
1885 -	3,428	3,866,709	23,674	1,797,222	27,102	5,663,931
1886 -	4,251	4,571,296	22,971	1,752,868	27,222	6,324,164
1887 -	4,078	4,607,914	23,521	1,793,923	27,599	6,401,837

Immigration and Emigration.

The following will show the number of Chinese who arrived in and the number who departed from the Colony during the last five years:—

Years.	Arrived.	Departed.
1883 - - - -	74,722	57,488
1884 - - - -	73,767	51,247
1885 - - - -	80,773	57,517
1886 - - - -	88,704	64,522
1887 - - - -	92,375	82,897

22.—AGRICULTURE.

The lands of the Colony being limited and not favourable for agricultural purposes there is no inducement for this industry here. The produce is quite nominal, and is for local consumption only.

23.—MANUFACTURES, &c.

Manufactories.

Brick and cement factories have been erected in the Colony, which promise to develop in time.

Steam Launches.

The total number of steam launches built in the Colony in 1887 was 31 with a total tonnage of 2,872, as against 26 with a

total tonnage of 1,659 in 1886. The total number of licensed steam launches of all descriptions in the Colony in 1887 were :—

Licensed to carry passengers - -	42
Private launches - - - -	43
Colonial Government launches - -	10
War Department launches - - -	7
Total - - - -	102

24.—Grants of Land.

The sales of land on lease during the last five years were :—

Years.	Total No. of Sales.	Total No. of Acres sold.
		A. R. P.
1883 - - - -	30	60 1 26¼
1884 - - - -	76	25 3 8¼
1885 - - - -	145	28 0 14¾
1886 - - - -	88	82 2 31¾
1887 - - - -	187	76 0 8

25.—Gaols and Prisoners.

On the 1st January 1887 there were 612 prisoners in Victoria Gaol; 4,600 were admitted during the year, and 4,541 discharged; the total number of prisoners on the 31st of December 1886 was 632, of whom 49 were Europeans.

The daily average of prisoners was 584, as against 674 in the previous year.

The number of prisoners admitted into gaol during the last five years was as follows :—

Years.	No. of Prisoners.			Total.	Daily Average Number in Prison.
	Men.	Women.	Juveniles.		
1883 - -	3,200	137	149	3,486	542·50
1884 - -	3,670	168	185	4,023	552·00
1885 - -	3,327	147	136	3,610	530·00
1886 - -	4,278	173	149	4,600	674·00
1887 - -	4,012	149	147	4,308	584·00

HONG KONG.

26.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Supreme Court.

The following is a return of cases tried at the Supreme Court during the last five years:—

Years.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Charges abandoned.		Postponed.	
					Number of Cases.	Number of Persons.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.
1883 - -	91	126	70	26	14	28*	2	2
1884 - -	68	101	65	20	8	16	—	—
1885 - -	91	147	103	22	16	22	—	—
1886 - -	75	107	59	20	16	27†	1	1
1887 - -	94	155	82	36	17	26	1	8
Total -	419	636	379	124	71	119	4	11
Average of 5 years -	83·$\frac{4}{5}$	127·$\frac{1}{5}$	75·$\frac{4}{5}$	24·$\frac{4}{5}$	14·$\frac{1}{5}$	23·$\frac{4}{5}$	$\frac{4}{5}$	2$\frac{1}{5}$
Average of 5 years ending 1882 -	125·	183·$\frac{4}{5}$	130·$\frac{3}{5}$	42·	7·$\frac{4}{5}$	10·$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{3}{5}$

* One committed suicide. † One recognisance estreated.

Police Magistrates' Court.

The cases before the police magistrates during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Total No. of Cases.	Total No. of Prisoners.	Cases how disposed of.						
			Convicted and Punished.	Discharged.	Committed for Trial.	Committed pending Orders.	Ordered to find Security.	Punished for False Testimony.	Undecided.
1883 - -	10,653	12,104	8,797	2,747	129	38	216	6	171
1884 - -	14,065	15,935	12,836	2,562	103	38	281	8	107
1885 - -	10,281	11,901	8,800	2,446	161	14	456	6	18
1886 - -	14,611	16,647	12,923	2,388	159	5	969	35	168
1887 - -	12,015	13,458	10,679	2,779	167	32	463	14	48
Total -	61,625	70,045	54,035	12,922	719	127	2,385	69	512
Average of 5 years	13,325	14,009	10,807	2,584·4	143·8	25·4	477·0	13·8	102·4
Average of 5 years ending 1882 -	7,795·4	8,867·4	6,776·4	2,091·2	193·2	15·4	286·2	28·6	47·4

Marine Magistrate's Court.

The cases before the Marine Magistrate Court during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Number of Cases.	Number of Defendants.	Defendants how disposed of.							
			Imprisoned.	Fined.	Forfeiture of Pay.	Reprimanded.	Sent back to duty.	To be discharged from Ship.	Dismissed.	Committed for trial.
1883 - - -	37	58	13	11	5	1	15	1	12	—
1884 - - -	78	169	85	32	11	1	9	3	28	—
1885 - - -	111	221	136	47	14	2	1	—	21	—
1886 - - -	58	87	43	24	6	2	1	—	11	—
1887 - - -	90	152	47	37	6	21	15	3	23	—
Total -	374	687	324	151	42	27	41	7	95	—
Average of last 5 years - -	74·8	137·4	64·8	30·2	8·4	5·4	8·2	1·4	19·0	—
Average of last 5 years ending 1882 -	118·0	213·0	85·8	44·2	22·8	8·2	19·4	2·0	30·2	—

Police.

The cases brought under the notice of the police during the last five years were as follows:—

Years.	Serious Offences.			Minor Offences.		
	Number of Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.	Number of Cases.	Convicted.	Discharged.
1883 - - -	2,423	1,178	485	5,265	4,014	1,024
1884 - - -	2,652	1,297	560	7,551	4,743	1,102
1885 - - -	2,466	1,298	561	4,309	3,707	757
1886 - - -	2,500	1,389	472	6,336	6,457	672
1887 - - -	2,577	1,234	565	5,904	6,310	1,214
Total -	12,618	6,396	2,643	29,365	25,231	4,769
Average of 5 years -	2,523·6	1,279·2	528·6	5,873·0	5,046·2	953·8
Average of 5 years ending 1882 -	2,396·8	1,387·6	490·6	4,083·0	3,759·6	819·2

HONG KONG.

27.—HOSPITALS, &c.

Civil Hospital.

The admissions to the Government Civil Hospital during the year were as follows as compared with 1886 :—

	1886.	1887.
Police - - - -	602	619
Board of Trade - - -	132	103
Private paying patients - -	381	324
Government servants - -	144	147
Police cases - - -	142	208
Destitutes - - - -	222	255
	1,623	1,656

The total admissions to the hospital and deaths during the year were as follows :—

Years.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1883 - - - -	1,502	70
1884 - - - -	1,354	50
1885 - - - -	1,510	76
1886 - - - -	1,623	79
1887 - - - -	1,656	89

The admissions from the police force and the number of deaths for the past five years were as follows :—

Years.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1883 - - - -	599	10
1884 - - - -	486	7
1885 - - - -	495	9*
1886 - - - -	602	14†
1887 - - - -	619	9

* Only five of these died in hospital, one died at his own residence, and three died whilst on leave.

† In hospital.

The admissions of Europeans were, in 1886, 138 as compared with 139 in 1887; the Chinese were 221 in 1886 as compared with 187 in 1887; and the Indians were 243 in 1886, as compared with 293 in 1887.

Military Hospital.

The admissions from among the troops during the past five years were as follows:—

Years.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1883	1,105	10
1884	1,097	12
1885	1,090	24*
1886	1,607	9
1887	1,749	14

Small-pox Hospital.

The admissions during the past five years were as follow:—

Years.	Admissions.
1883	12
1884	7
1885	14
1886	11
1887	65

Inquests.

The inquests held during the past five years were as follows:—

Years.	Admissions.
1883	101
1884	82
1885	100
1886	120
1887	115

28.—CHARITABLE AND LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.

No fresh institution was formed.

* Twelve died of cholera.

HONG KONG.

29.—RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

An Ordinance (19 of 1887) was passed during the year to enable the trustees of the Rhenish Missionary Society to sell and dispose of certain leasehold property within the Colony.

ARATHOON SETH,
Chief Clerk

Hong Kong, 31st July 1888.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 13.

JAMAICA AND TURKS ISLANDS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1888.

LONDON:
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1888.

[C.—5249.—10.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	„	1
9	Heligoland - -	„	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*

No. 13.

JAMAICA.

[For previous Reports *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4904]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3388].]

Deputy Governor JUSTICE to LORD KNUTSFORD

MY LORD, King's House, May 8, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying report on the Blue Book of Jamaica for the year 1886–87, which was signed by Governor Sir Henry Norman previous to his temporary departure from the Island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. C. JUSTICE, Colonel,
Deputy Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Legislation.

During the year 1886–87 31 Laws were passed by the Legislative Council, numbered from Laws 15 to 28 of 1886 and 1 to 17 of 1887. Of these the following call for remark:—

Law 17 of 1886.—"A Law to enable the construction of Lighthouses when required."

As its title shows, the object of the Law is to enable the Government to erect lights at various points on the coast, for the benefit of sea-going and coasting vessels, a provision which has been rendered necessary by the increasing number of steamers engaged in trading to the outports of the Island, mainly for the purpose of taking fruit to the United States. A lighthouse is now under construction at Port Antonio, an important shipping port for fruit on the north side of the Island.

Law 18 of 1886.—"A Law to enable the suspension of certain "provisions of the Immigration Laws as to applications for Immi- "grants."

This Law was passed, and the subsequent action was taken, as I remarked in last year's report, under the head "Immigration," in consequence of the Report of a Select Committee of the Legislative Council, adopted by the Council, that a Law be passed abolishing the importation of Indian immigrants. This course was considered to be almost obligatory on the Governor, as the Law stood, to apply to India for immigrants if planters asked him to do so. The new Law gives the Governor power by proclamation to suspend such immigration, either generally or for a specific period, and a proclamation suspending immigration until further orders was published on the 23rd October 1886.

JAMAICA.

Law 19 of 1886.—"A Law in aid of Naval Discipline in Colonial Waters."

This Law was introduced and passed in accordance with the circular letter of the Secretary of State, dated 21st June 1886, pointing out the expediency of embodying in the Laws of the Colony the provisions in the Imperial Act for supporting the maintenance of discipline on board vessels of Her Majesty's Navy when in colonial waters. It prohibits liquor being brought on board any of Her Majesty's vessels without consent of the captain, and punishes offenders for breaches of the law. It also gives power to search boats hovering about with liquor, and to seize any liquor found in such boats; and contains also provisions against aid or assistance to deserters.

Law 21 of 1886.—"The Married Women's Property Law, 1886."

This Law repeals the Married Women's Property Law 8 of 1879, which was a transcript of the Imperial Acts "The Married Women's Property Act" of 1870, and the Amendment Act, 1874 (37 & 38 Vict. c. 50.), and is itself a transcript of the Imperial Act 45 & 46 Vict. c. 75., which repealed the Imperial Acts mentioned above, and consolidated and amended the laws relating to married women's property. The Law, as now passed, adapts to Jamaica the Law of England regarding married women in all respects.

Law 22 of 1886.—"The Franchise Enlargement Law, 1886."

This Law enlarges the franchise in accordance with the resolution of the Legislative Council, which has been approved by the Secretary of State.

The several qualifications for voters who are entitled to be placed upon the register of voters are:—

(*a.*) An occupier or tenant of a house paying poor rates to the extent of 10*s.*

(*b.*) A taxpayer to the amount of 30*s.*

(*c.*) A male person receiving an annual salary of 50*l.* and upwards.

Ability to read and write is not now required as a qualification for a voter, as was contemplated by the previous rule. It is calculated that approximately the provisions of this Law have increased the number of electors in Jamaica from 9,298 to 22,922.

Law 23 of 1886.—"The Incorporated Companies and Societies Law, 1886."

This Law amends the Acts relating to friendly societies and benefit building societies by providing a system of registration of such societies, and also of incorporated trading companies, and also makes better provision for the periodical publication of the statements of their affairs. It also provides a means of having an inspector of the affairs of any society or company.

Law 28 of 1886.—"A Law to lessen the Court Fees payable in Common Law Plaints in the District Courts."

This Law was passed in compliance with a general feeling in the community that the court fees payable in the district courts were too high.

Law 2 of 1887.—"A Law to provide for the Preservation of "copies of Books printed in Jamaica, and for the registration of "such books."

This Law was enacted in consequence of a suggestion from the principal librarian of the British Museum as to the desirability for enacting laws in the several Colonies for the registration of their publications. It is modelled on a Ceylon Ordinance, the enactment of which gave rise to this suggestion.

Law 3 of 1887.—"The Maintenance Law, 1881, Extension Law, 1887."

This Law provides a ready means of enabling wives to get an order for the payment of weekly sums by their husbands for their maintenance, in which respect the previous law was defective. The introduction of the measure was suggested by the enactment of the Imperial statute 49 & 50 Vict. c. 52.

Law 6 of 1887.—"The Agricultural Loans Law, 1887."

This Law enables a person in possession of land to pledge the crop for advances made for the purpose of producing the crop, even though the land is already mortgaged. Its object is important in its bearing upon the employment of capital in developing the agricultural resources of the Island, specially in view of the recent abolition of the consignees' lien. The Law repeals a previous enactment on the same subject.

Law 8 of 1887.—"The Contagious Diseases Laws Repeal Law."

This Law, the object of which is apparent, was introduced into the Legislative Council in compliance with the directions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It accords with the policy of the Imperial Government in this matter at home.

Law 15 of 1887.—"A Law in aid of the Public Health Law, 1867."

This Law repeals the Law on the same subject, passed as Law 26 of 1886, which was found to be defective in its provisions, as regards the enforcement of regulations to be made by the Central Board of Health under the Law. The object of the Law is to enable the Governor, with the advice of the Privy Council, to proclaim a virtual dictatorship as the only means of effectually dealing with such an outbreak of infectious disease as had then recently taken place. The period during which the Governor is enabled to put the law in force is limited to six months.

Law 17 of 1887.—"The Resident Magistrates Law, 1887."

This Law reconstituted the lower courts of the Island in the place of district courts, which were abolished. The resident magistrate's duty, as by this Law defined, was to preside in courts of Petty Sessions, and also to hold a court of his own, with separate jurisdiction. This court answers generally to the district court, with the same or almost the same jurisdiction, and it was intended to be the intermediate court between the Supreme Court and the

Clerk of Petty Sessions, presided over by a paid officer possessing legal qualifications. This Law has been superseded by a new Law, of broader character, but on the same lines, which was introduced and enacted in the next session of the Legislature.

Finance.

The year under report commenced with a surplus of 8,307*l.*, which, added to the revenue of the year 495,092*l.*, made a total sum available to meet expenditure of 503,399*l.* The expenditure, on the other hand, including 20,956*l.* for sinking funds and 1,200*l.* for redemption of debt, amounted to 516,028*l.*, thus leaving at the close of the year a deficit of 12,628*l.*

The appropriated revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, pauper relief, sanitary and other similar local services, and are administered by the several parochial boards, produced in 1886–87 95,099*l.*, or 4,073*l.* in excess of the receipts in the previous year.

The revenue appropriated to immigration services, including the proceeds of employers' promissory notes for cost of introduction of immigrants amounted to 15,807*l.* and the expenditure to 8,568*l.*

The usual comparative table of the whole of the Treasury receipts in the year under report, with those of the previous year, is given below :—

	1886–87.	1885–86.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Import duties	248,085	245,781	2,304	—
Export duties	5,570	5,601	—	31
Light dues	1,833	1,964	—	131
Harbour master's fees	1,618	1,799	—	181
Rum duties	77,720	80,455	—	2,735
Licenses	15,687	15,843	—	156
Stamps	16,038	14,524	1,514	—
Stock	4,597	4,654	—	57
Tax revenue	371,148	370,621	3,818	3,291
Postal revenue	16,838	16,531	307	—
Telegraph revenue	4,058	4,053	5	—
Court fees	5,864	6,071	—	207
Fines and forfeitures	3,037	3,249	—	212
Interest on securities held for sinking funds	7,712	7,066	646	—
Interest on Savings Bank investments after paying depositors	3,406	3,697	—	29
Interest other than as above	3,451	3,580	—	129
Jamaica railway revenue	49,095	34,824	14,271	—
Reimbursements	24,417	18,718	5,699	—
Miscellaneous	6,067	4,939	1,128	—
Non-tax revenue	123,945	102,728	22,056	839
Total	495,093	473,349	25,874	4,130
			−4,130	
	—	—	21,744	—

	1886-87.	1885-86.	Increase.	Decrease.
Revenues specially appropriated.	£	£	£	£
Parochial road revenues - -	39,670	38,246	1,424	—
Kingston street tax - -	2,793	2,786	7	—
Parochial municipal objects -	8,624	8,442	182	—
Poor rates - - - -	33,223	30,377	2,846	—
Sanitary rates - -	5,290	4,430	860	—
Fire rates - - - -	1,190	1,541	—	351
Gas rates - - - -	2,511	3,413	—	902
Miscellaneous - - -	1,327	1,600	—	273
Parochial general purposes -	470	191	279	—
	95,098	91,026	5,598	1,526
	—	—	4,072	—
Immigration Revenues.				
Export duties - - -	11,905	8,127	3,778	—
Interest (general) - -	357	347	10	—
Proceeds of promissory notes -	2,933	5,376	—	2,443
Miscellaneous - - -	611	98	513	—
	15,806	13,948	4,301	2,443
	—	—	1,858	—
Receipts on Debt Account.				
Law 1 of 1879 - - -	—	830	—	830
Law 14 of 1886 - - -	10,000	42,000	—	32,000
Law 16 of 1887 - - -	25,300	—	25,300	—
Excess of deposits over withdrawals	28,242	—	28,242	—

The yield of the general revenue shows a net increase of 21,744*l.* when compared with the previous year. The chief items of increase are import duties, 2,304*l.*, and stamps, 1,514*l.*, under tax revenue, and reimbursements, 5,699*l.*, miscellaneous, 1,128*l.*, and railway, 14,271*l.*, under non-tax revenue. The large increase under railway of over 14,000*l.* is attributed to the fact that the weather in the year under review has been more favourable than the previous one, when the line suffered much damage from heavy floods and traffic was considerably impeded. A general improvement in trade may also account for this increase.

The receipts on account of appropriated revenues show a net increase of 4,072*l.* on comparison with those of the previous year, the principal items of increase being under parochial road revenue 1,424*l.*, and poor rates 2,846*l.*

Immigration revenues show a net increase of 1,858*l.*, chiefly owing to the increase of 3,778*l.* in export duties, due to an improvement in the sugar market; this item, however, was much below the average in the preceding year. The proceeds of planters' notes show a decrease of 2,443*l.*, due to the cessation of the importation of immigrants.

The following is a similar comparative statement of the Treasury disbursements compared with those in 1885–86 :—

	1886–87.	1885–86.	Increase.	Decrease.
General Expenditure.	£	£	£	£
Interest on debt	74,576	72,423	2,123	—
Pensions	12,363	12,733	—	370
Administrative departments	31,598	32,606	—	1,008
Revenue departments	31,741	31,849	—	108
Postal services	22,128	18,608	3,520	—
Telegraphs	4,009	3,828	181	—
Judicial	35,092	35,248	—	156
Ecclesiastical	6,934	6,985	—	51
Medical	52,456	49,785	2,671	—
Constabulary	48,218	48,650	—	432
Penitentiary and prisons	18,526	18,467	59	—
Reformatories	5,310	5,095	215	—
Education	33,324	30,833	2,491	—
Military	7,279	6,709	570	—
Pilotage and harbours	1,325	1,822	—	497
Steam communication with America	—	153	—	153
Steam communication round the Island	2,000	2,000	—	—
Subsidy West India and Panama Telegraph Company	2,000	2,000	—	—
Colonization of immigrants	120	4,488	—	4,368
Registrar-General's department	2,946	3,026	—	80
Island Record Office	915	960	—	45
Government printing establishment	5,596	6,600	—	1,004
Institute of Jamaica	1,128	850	278	—
Public plantations and gardens	4,391	4,258	133	—
Jamaica railway	33,050	27,424	5,626	—
Miscellaneous	8,057	6,776	1,281	—
Queen's Jubilee Festival	640	—	640	—
Public works	47,042	51,187	—	4,145
Lighthouses	1,038	1,098	—	60
Maintenance of forfeited lands	99	189	—	90
Total	493,871	486,650	19,788	12,567
	—	—	−12,567	—
	—	—	7,221	—
Expenditure from appropriated Revenues.	£	£	£	£
Parochial roads	53,960	41,844	12,116	—
Kingston streets	648	919	—	271
Parochial municipal objects	7,599	7,924	—	325
Relief of the poor	35,239	32,599	2,640	—
Sanitary appropriation	17,345	8,151	9,194	—
Gas appropriation, Kingston	2,528	2,494	34	—
Fire appropriation, Kingston	1,350	1,188	162	—
Parochial general purposes	1,419	969	450	—
Total	120,088	96,088	24,596	596
Total expenditure from appropriated revenues.	120,088	96,088	24,000	—
Immigration expenditure	8,568	10,563	—	1,995
Grand total	622,527	593,301	29,226	—

	1886–87.	1885–86.	Increase.	Decrease.
Expenditure out of Loans raised for the purpose.	£	£	£	£
Jamaica Railway - - -	23,634	29,098	—	5,464
Portland Bridges - - -	—	217	—	217
	646,161	622,616	23,545	—
Disbursements other than Expenditure.				
Sinking funds - - -	20,956	14,003	6,953	—
Redemption of debt - -	1,200	2,400	—	1,200
Excess of withdrawals over deposits - - - - -	—	11,117	—	11,117

The general expenditure of the Colony shows an increase of 7,221*l.*, the largest items of which are under debt, 2,123*l.*, due to new loans for railway purposes; under postal services 3,520*l.*, on account of contribution to Postal Union; under medical 2,671*l.*, due to increase in vaccination and the importation of drugs and disinfectants owing to the presence of small-pox in the Island and to the possibility of the appearance of cholera; under education 2,491*l.*, due to the purchase of Shortwood for the Female Training College and the coming into full operation of the new scheme for aid to Voluntary Training College; under Jamaica railway 5,626*l.*, due to an increase in the maintenance and working expenses and in the purchase of stores; and under miscellaneous 1,281*l.*, on account of the payment of the balance of contribution under the Postal Union contract, 1885, to meet the moiety of the difference between the postage and the subsidy, and for the adjustment of interest on debentures under Law 14 of 1886; the new item of 640*l.* for "Queen's Jubilee Festival" being the amount expended from the special vote of the Legislative Council of 700*l.* in connexion with the general rejoicings on that occasion.

On the other hand, there are decreases under administrative and revenue departments of 1,008*l.* and 108*l.* respectively, the effect of economical arrangements in the former, and of savings of personal allowances upon the promotion of officers in the latter; under colonization of immigrants 4,368*l.*, due to the fact that very few indentures fell due within the year and that it was not necessary to provide for the payment of bounty in lieu of return passages for immigrants; under Government printing establishment 1,004*l.*, due to economy in the purchase of stationery for general supply to departments and for printing paper; and under public works 4,145*l.*, on account of a reduction in expenditure on new works and the maintenance of public buildings.

The expenditure from appropriated revenues shows a net increase of 24,000*l.* with the exception of the items Kingston streets and parochial municipal objects, on account of which there are small decreases of 271*l.* and 235*l.* respectively, the expenditure under this head shows an increase throughout, the most important items of which are parochial roads 12,116*l.*, due to repairs consequent upon the damages caused by floods, to which reference has

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been made, and to the construction of new roads and bridges, the excess of expenditure over the revenue being made up from advances from the Parochial Road Reserved Fund; under relief of the poor 2,640*l.*, due to fluctuation, the excess on revenue being met from the balances brought over from previous years; and under sanitary appropriation 9,194*l.*, caused by the epidemic of small-pox, which is now happily confined to one parish in the Island, and which it is hoped will shortly entirely disappear. The large excess of expenditure over the receipts for sanitary purposes was met from advances from general revenue.

The expenditure on account of immigration services shows a decrease of 1,995*l.*

Pensions.

During the year nine pensions, amounting in all to 2,082*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.* were granted under the provisions of the Jamaica Pensions Law 34 of 1885, while relief to the pension list was afforded to the extent of 694*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* by the death during the year of 10 pensioners.

Debt.

The sum of 10,000*l.* was raised during the year on account of the loan of 52,000*l.* authorised under Law 14 of 1886 to complete the payments in respect of the railway extensions to Porus and Ewarton, including the amount awarded to the contractors by the arbitrators. Also 25,300*l.* of the loan of 70,000*l.* authorised under Law 16 of 1887 for the purpose of defraying the cost of the damages caused to the railway by the extraordinary floods in 1886; for making surveys of the proposed extensions to Montego Bay and Port Antonio, and for extending the wharf accommodation in Kingston and constructing a quay wall at any future time. A small premium was realised in each case, the rate of interest being 4 per cent.

The following sums were paid off from general revenue during the year, namely, 1,200*l.* of debt under Law 8 of 1871, on account of the old immigration loan; 1,600*l.* under Law 12 of 1879, and 3,700*l.* under Laws 8 and 17 of 1880, the latter being loans for railway purposes.

The public debt directly secured on the general revenue has stood as follows on the 30th September in each of the last 10 years, after making allowance in each year for the sinking fund actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1878 - - -	641,644	10	9
1879 - - -	718,608	11	11
1880 - - -	721,481	6	8
1881 - - -	920,924	19	4
1882 - - -	1,238,750	0	0
1883 - - -	1,257,916	2	1
1884 - - -	1,243,899	18	9
1885 - - -	1,427,458	14	2
1886 - - -	1,478,790	3	8
1887 - - -	1,491,993	3	9

Of the above amount of debt on the 30th September last 737,700*l.* was on account of railway purchase, reconstruction, and extension, and 126,500*l.* on account of the Rio Cobre Canal. The amount of the increase in the debt in the year under report was entirely for railway extension purposes.

The following are the amounts due for debentures raised on account of the several undertakings specified below, which have remained the same as last year; namely:—

	£
Kingston and Liguanea waterworks - -	128,200
Kingston markets - - - -	20,000
Kingston gasworks - - - -	30,000
Kingston slaughter-house - - -	10,000

Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council met for business on the 22nd of September 1886, and was sitting when the year closed on the 30th of that month. The session was prorogued on the 21st of October 1886. A new session commenced on the 13th of April 1887 and was adjourned on the 9th of May 1887. The Council re-assembled for business on the 29th of September 1887.

The Hon. Lieutenant-Colonel William Gordon Patchett, 2nd West India Regiment, senior military officer in command of Her Majesty's Forces in this Island, took his seat *virtute officii* on the first day of the session, and the Hon. James Allwood, Acting Colonial Secretary, was sworn in on the same day.

Mr. Richard Gillard, Collector General, was appointed provisionally a member of the Council in the place of Dr. Mosse, C.B., temporarily absent from the Island, and took his seat on the 29th of September 1887.

Civil Establishment.

His Excellency the Governor was compelled to proceed to England on urgent business on the 2nd February and Colonel W. Clive Justice, C.M.G., senior military officer in command of the troops, administered the Government until his Excellency's return on the 27th March.

His Excellency also left the Island for 10 days in May on a visit to the Turks and Caicos Islands, when similar provision was made for the administration of the Government.

Mr. James Allwood, Assistant Colonial Secretary, left on leave of absence in November 1886 and returned in March 1887.

The Hon. E. N. Walker, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, who had received the appointment of Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, left the Colony on the 10th August 1887 after 13 years' service as Assistant Colonial Secretary and Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Hocking, Attorney-General, returned from leave of absence early in January 1887 and resumed his duties, which had been performed by Mr. S. C. Burke.

Mr. C. R. Curran, Senior Puisne Judge, was granted leave of absence in January and returned to the Island in August 1887.

Mr. Ernst, Judge of the Northern District Court, left the Island on leave of absence on the 24th November 1886 and had

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not returned at the close of the year. During this period Mr. F. Roper has discharged his duties.

Mr. Little, Judge of the Western District Court, was granted leave of absence from the Island in March 1887, and Mr. Arthur Levy, Advocate, was appointed to act as his *locum tenens.* Mr. Little has since retired on pension.

The appointment of Mr. Valentine G. Bell as Director of Public Works in succession to Major-General Mann, R.E., C.M.G., was confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in March 1887.

Dr. J. W. Plaxton, lately surgeon at the Lunatic Asylum at Ceylon, was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum in succession to Dr. Allen, who had retired on pension, and he assumed his duties on the 13th April.

Dr. Mosse, C.B., Superintending Medical Officer, was granted leave of absence from the 1st June, and Dr. John Pringle, District Medical Officer, appointed to act as Superintending Medical Officer during his absence.

Mr. Neale Porter was appointed Colonial Secretary of Jamaica in succession to Mr. E. N. Walker, C.M.G., but had not arrived in the Colony at the end of the year under review, being detained in administration of the Government of the Leeward Islands. During this period Mr. James Allwood, Assistant Colonial Secretary, officiated in the higher capacity.

Public Works.

The total expenditure under all heads (excepting railway) has been 64,700*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* of this sum 29,375*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* was required for main roads and bridges, and 35,325*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* for salaries services, maintenance of public buildings, Rio Cobre canal, light-houses, parochial services, waterworks, &c. It may be remarked that the amount of 8,550*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* for parochial services consists principally of grants from the Parochial Road Reserve Fund and the sums expended on waterworks amounting to 3,314*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.* are advanced from general revenue at interest, to be repaid as the works become self-supporting.

The cost of maintenance of main roads and bridges was 28,324*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* and shows an excess of 1,576*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* over the amount originally estimated and voted by the Legislature, and gives an average of 37*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* per mile as against 36*l* 16*s.* 9*d.* last year, the highest amount for the last five years.

This excess and high average is almost entirely due to the heavy floods and cyclone of the previous year, which did great damage to the roads throughout the Island, but more especially in the eastern and western districts.

Steps have been taken to replace with iron flooring the wooden flooring used on several of the bridges in St. Mary, and the Flat Bridge in the Bog Walk has also been refloored with iron girders and buckle plates which were available from the old floor of the bridge at May Pen which had to be strengthened to carry the railway. This will prevent the inconvenience often caused by the former wooden flooring being washed away by the somewhat frequent floods of the Rio Cobre.

No additions have been made to the list of main roads during the year, but two roads, which were repaired from grants from the Parochial Road Reserved Fund, have since their completion been maintained at the expense of the department, and will in future be main roads.

The road from Kectors River to Coscheatte running through what is known as the "Cockpit" country has been removed from the schedule of main roads, and it has been found of so little use that the parochial board of Trelawny have declined to take it over and place it on their list of parochial roads.

A new Main Road Law has been recently passed and is likely to be of much assistance to the Public Works Department.

Owing to financial considerations no new works have been undertaken with the exception only of a deviation on the road from Batte to Quaw Hill, and protective works at the May Pen Bridge across the Dry River, both of which were rendered absolutely necessary by the floods.

The expenditure for repairs to public buildings has amounted to 7,468*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* and has been for the usual maintenance.

The building of the tower for the new lighthouse at Folly Point has been begun and the lamp, &c. ordered from England. The new lamp and apparatus, burning mineral oil, at Plumb Point Lighthouse continues to give satisfactory results; it works at a reduced cost for oil of from 70 to 80 per cent. on the cost of the cocoanut oil previously used.

A considerable number of parochial works, consisting of construction and repair of roads and bridges, and surveys and plans for waterworks, &c., have been carried out, and the officers of the department have reported and advised on many other proposals.

Under the provisions of Law 16 of 1887 the works for the construction of a new wharf at the railway and for surveys for the proposed railway extension, were commenced at the latter end of the financial year, and some progress made.

The Government and railway workshops have been amalgamated, and a store branch formed, from which stores are issued to the Railway and Public Works Department on requisition at a price calculated to cover the cost of this branch of the department.

By these and other changes in the staff of the department a saving of about 1,350*l.* per annum has been effected in salaries and travelling allowances.

Lands.

During the year two properties were taken possession of from squatters under section 184 of the District Courts Law, one containing 217 acres in the parish of Clarendon, from which eight squatters were dispossessed, and the other being a town lot in Kingston.

The sale of lands and premises which had come into possession of the Government realised during the year a sum of 805*l.*, and leases of properties in a similar position were granted during the same period at an annual total rental of 99*l.*

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A cadastral map of the parish of Trelawny was compiled on the usual scale of four inches to the mile.

Rio Cobre Canal.

The expenditure on these irrigation works during the year amounted to 1,475*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, a little under the average cost for the past five years of 1,492*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*

The sums estimated for maintenance of works were exceeded by a total of 86*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* in consequence of the necessity for restoring some portion of the embankments and other works which were damaged by heavy rains.

A small extension of the "Hartsease" subsidiary channel was made through Cookson's Pen to Congreve Park, a distance of 50 chains.

The revenue from the works earned during the 12 months amounted to 2,085*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with 2,382*l.* 2*s.* 10½*d.* earned the year before, and the actual collections of revenue amounted to 2,247*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* in 1886–87 as against 2,183*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* in 1885–86. If the receipts from other sources, viz., rent of lands and sales of wood are added, the total earnings and collections would be respectively 2,118*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* and 2,280*l.* 11*s.* 9½*d.* The sums collected in the past five years average 2,276*l.* 1*s.* 1½*d.* per annum.

It is reported that the falling off in the amount earned is due to the unusual regularity of the rainfall.

Island Telegraph.

The gross receipts during the year amounted to 4,058*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, showing a very slight increase over last year and a decrease of 187*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* compared with 1884–85.

The expenditure on account of working expenses amounted to 4,001*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, an increase of 173*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* over the previous year, the chief increase being 101*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* for salaries.

The number of messages was 73,781, an increase of 159 over 1885–86.

A telegraph station was established at Half-Way Tree, a village three miles from Kingston, in January 1887, but it finds a formidable rival in the telephone company, which has extended its system to that place and established an exchange from which messages can be sent to Kingston at a low charge. However, 186 messages were sent from the new telegraph station during the year.

819 telegrams to places beyond sea were sent over the inland telegraph wires under the arrangement with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company; their value was 1,452*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* and that amount was collected for the Company and paid to them through the Island Treasurer.

Railways.

The gross receipts during the year amounted to 44,270*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, exceeding the estimate of revenue by 227*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, and the

receipts for the previous year by 9,498*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* The expenditure was 30,601*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*, or 6,220*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.* in excess of the estimate, but special grants of 2,963*l.*; and 5,198*l.* were made, thus increasing the amount sanctioned to 32,272*l.*, the expenditure was therefore 1,670*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* less than authorised.

The net revenue for the year was 13,668*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*

The receipts per mile of railway were 691*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* and the expenditure 478*l.* 3*s.* 0*d.* The earnings per train mile were 4*s.* 9·88*d.* and the expenditure 3*s.* 4·05*d.* The number of train miles run was 183,583.

The following statement shows the receipts for the year as compared with the four preceding years:—

——	1886-87.	1885-86.	1884-85.	1883-84.	1882-83.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Goods and cattle -	23,286 15 2	16,959 10 3	13,484 15 7	12,198 12 11	13,207 10 8
Passengers - -	17,783 9 6	15,017 9 8	14,977 18 3	11,678 4 3	10,314 12 2
Wharf - - -	2,779 11 1	2,071 15 2	1,885 4 5	1,938 7 0	1,805 15 0
Miscellaneous - -	420 15 1	723 12 8	1,610 14 0	1,203 12 10	317 4 9
Total - -	44,270 10 10	34,772 7 9	31,958 12 3	27,018 17 0	25,645 2 7

230,174 passengers, or 43,136 more than in 1885–86, were carried during the year, and it is probable that this number would have been exceeded but for the prevalence of small-pox in Kingston, which doubtless deterred people from travelling.

Traffic was twice suspended for short periods, once owing to damage done to the line by heavy rains and once to an accident to the train.

The railway and rolling stock were maintained in good order, and four new box waggons were built and added to the stock during the year.

District Courts.

The following summary shows the business of the district courts during the past 10 years:—

—	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Criminal trials -	4,054	3,319	3,197	4,372	3,279	3,870	3,510	3,412	3,942	3,859
Small causes -	9,616	7,704	7,652	7,779	6,907	4,638	3,696	3,503	3,516	5,819
Judgment summonses - -	1,579	1,592	1,692	1,514	1,304	836	566	522	470	604
Equity cases -	21	20	15	19	14	20	21	14	8	8
Cases under Land Law - -	163	104	126	159	78	66	103	88	97	66
Bankruptcy cases -	5	1	8	1	6	4	4	2	—	5
Probate cases -	94	102	109	147	131	123	125	137	116	106
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Amount claimed -	63,300	51,510	47,408	54,736	45,735	33,236	28,012	25,923	27,087	31,619
Judgment obtained	32,348	28,479	34,056	30,747	26,946	19,718	16,411	15,858	16,415	19,395
Costs - - -	5,626	4,952	4,957	5,331	4,496	3,735	3,381	3,279	3,270	2,716
Court fees - -	5,491	4,757	4,484	4,588	4,073	3,708	3,525	3,422	3,340	2,432

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There is an increase in the amount of business transacted, though the fees are somewhat less than in previous years, owing to the reduction in the rates made last year.

There were 13 appeals from the judgments of these courts, 11 being in civil and 2 in criminal cases. In only one case was the judgment reversed, and in one set aside, while in four cases the appeal was dismissed, in four cases the judgment of the lower court was affirmed, two appeals were allowed, and one withdrawn.

No progress was made in the proposed re-organisation of these courts, the bill for the purpose being still under the consideration of the Legislative Council when the financial year closed.

Botanical.

The report furnished by the head of this department is an exhaustive record of its operations during the year, and furnishes also very useful information of general interest.

During the year the re-organisation of the department was commenced on the lines recommended by the Select Committee of the Legislative Council which had been appointed to consider the matter. The main recommendation was to establish the head botanical station at "Hope," a property a few miles from Kingston, and easily accessible from that city. The importance of Castleton, which had hitherto been treated as the centre of the system of propagation and distribution, will, under this plan, be gradually diminished. The savings to be effected by the reduction of expenditure at this station and at the Cinchona Plantation will, it is contemplated, suffice for the extension of operations at "Hope" which, as the director points out, must be carried out gradually. The inner area he proposes to arrange as a geographical garden, keeping the plants of different countries in separate portions. The outer area will consist of experimental grounds, where plants will be arranged in groups.

A difficulty in connexion with these operations it is feared may arise from a limited water supply, but this will, it is hoped, be overcome.

The desirability of keeping up a hill garden as a part of the system of a Botanical Department in the tropics has been recognised by the Legislature, and the station at Cinchona, where, however, cultivation has not hitherto been restricted to that bark, will therefore be retained for this purpose, but the area devoted to it will be limited. The advantages to be derived from botanical gardens at different elevations are apparent in this Island where large areas of suitable land at the higher elevations are available for the growth of varieties of products. The hill station will also be made use of for the general purpose of a forest station.

The shipment of cinchona bark from the plantation this year amounted to 17,009 lbs.; realising 542*l.* 9*s.*, which gives an average of 7·65*d.* per lb. The price varied of course considerably according to quality.

The director in his report on this subject calls attention to the high rates charged for freight on cinchona bark sent from Jamaica, and contrasts the rate from Ceylon, which is 2*s.* 8½*d.* per 100 lbs. as against 8*s.* 9½*d.* from Jamaica. This point deserves the serious attention of cinchona growers here, who in these days of keen competition in the sea-carrying trade might be able to make better terms than these.

In connexion with the retention of Castleton as a botanical station the director points to its value, which consists largely in the circumstance that it has been established for 21 years. The work of distribution of economic and other plants and seeds from this garden continued as heretofore during the year, 22,326 plants having been sent out. Quarantine, however, which was imposed against Jamaica on account of small-pox, restricted the exchange of plants with the other West Indian Colonies during the year. As a small example out of many of the usefulness of this garden to the Island at large from an agricultural point of view it may be noticed that 360 cacao pods were distributed during the year, which, allowing a large per-centage for losses, it is safely assumed by the superintendent would successfully produce at least 10,000 plants.

The training of gardeners is adverted to by the director as a very necessary work, which might with advantage be undertaken at the Hope Gardens, and there is doubtless a field for the employment of some skilled men of the class in the Colony itself. Besides practical knowledge of the sort would open up careers in many other places.

The Kingston Parade Garden has been kept up economically and has not retrograded in consequence. A drought for six months which it sustained during the year was a drawback to the vegetation, and the strong dry breezes which prevail always at certain seasons are blighting to the many flowering plants bedded out, but the garden still remains a great source of pleasurable recreation and retreat to the people of the city.

The cocoanut plantation on the Palisadoes, as decided on by the Legislative Council, were leased out during the year by public tender. Between the previous October and April last cocoanuts to the value of 135*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* were sold from the plantation.

A great deal has been done in perfecting the Herbarium of the department, and a close study of the local distribution of plants within the Island in connexion with the Herbarium has been entered upon.

A typical collection of "minor products" which is about to be sent out from Kew to guide those engaged in their culture must prove of service, if intelligently studied, in bringing about an improved system of preparation of such products on which much money is now lost when they are brought to market, in consequence of inattention to curing. This collection will be placed on view at the Jamaica Institute.

Education.

Contrasting the state of education which prevailed here 20 years ago, when the present system was brought into operation, with the present position of this subject, so vital to the true interests of the Colony, there is reason for satisfaction.

The following are the statistics in connexion with the working of the department for the year.

Year.	Schools on Government List.	Schools passed on inspection.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in average attendance.	Per-centage in average attendance of number on Books.	Class of School.					Not Inspected.	Fees.	Grants in aid, including 1,500*l.* Building Grant.
						I.	II.	III.	F.	E.			
												£ *s.*	£ *s.*
1886-87	725	677	62,424	35,613	57	91	235	341	9	1	48	6,738 6	21,587 16
1885-86	723	686	61,571	34,825	56·56	70	254	357	36	6	—	6,928 17	21,375 1

The increased number of scholars on the books and the larger average attendance this year as compared with the last are matters for congratulation and show a decided improvement in both directions, which is really much more promising than the figures taken by themselves as representing the result of the whole year would indicate, the attendance having been unfavourably affected during a portion of the year by storms, sickness, &c.

A salient feature in the returns, it will be observed, is the increased number of schools attaining the rank of first class, which has risen from 70 last year, the highest number then reached, to 91. This result is not in any way due to any relaxation of the standard but in the main to the increase in the number of trained teachers yearly entering the profession. Thus we may reasonably hope that one very great difficulty in the way of elementary education here is being overcome and that the provision now made for training teachers, female as well as male, will keep up the supply.

The result of the last annual examination of teachers and students in training colleges is encouraging in this direction, the number of candidates being largely in excess of those presented on any previous occasion. The work at all the voluntary training colleges is reported as being steadily carried on.

The inspector reports a continued decrease in the fees received from the maximum reached in 1883–84. This he attributes in the main to the unsettled state of the educational system and to the expectation of important changes consequent on proposals by the late Commission on the subject which embrace the question of payment of fees.

The Female Training College was removed during the August vacation from Camperdown, where it had been located, to Shortwood House not far off, which was purchased for the purpose and

adapted for the uses of such an institution. The change is said to be very satisfactory in many ways. There have, unfortunately, been drawbacks to thoroughly efficient work in the college, owing to illness among the students and to the unavoidable but temporary invaliding to England of the lady principal, and the results of the annual examination are, as may be inferred, not all that could be desired, but there is no reason to be discouraged. The Institution, it must not be forgotten, is quite in its infancy, and, as the first of its kind, has many drawbacks to contend with.

It is worthy of note that of the 146 students admitted into the Government Training College in Spanish Town since its foundation in 1867 to 30th September 1886 a per-centage of 81·3 have actually or presumably adopted teaching as their career.

Immigration.

The operations of the department during the year were confined to the supervision of the immigrants already located in the Island, of whom there were 1,317 serving under indenture on the 31st December 1887. There were no new immigrants introduced during the year, immigration being now suspended. The number of immigrants who had completed their indenture for industrial service, but had not completed 10 years' residence on the 31st December last, was 2,129, and the number who had then completed their residence, and are what is locally termed "free" coolies, was 10,103, making up altogether an East Indian and Chinese population of 13,609, the former very largely preponderating.

The protector states that the want of labour in some districts is again being felt, and that applications were some months ago made for 200 immigrants.

The condition of the East Indians continues most prosperous, and both among them and the comparatively few Chinese the death-rate during the year was light, being 2·66 and 1·23 respectively.

The birth-rate was 1·11 and ·92 each.

At the end of the last financial year there was 10,279*l.* at credit of the Immigration Fund, and the Return Passage Fund had at credit a further sum of 12,266*l.* This money will be expended in granting return passages to the coolies now in the Colony.

As the expenditure was decreasing, the export duties on sugar and rum, which help to feed these funds, have been reduced by Law 20 of 1887 from 5*s.* 9*d.* per hogshead and 4*s.* 6*d.* per puncheon to 3*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* respectively, equal to a remission of about 5,000*l.* a year of taxation for immigration purposes.

Emigration.

The returns show that during the year the emigration of Jamaicans to the Isthmus of Panama continued in increased numbers compared with the year before, the number leaving for Colon being 10,418, as against 8,601 in 1885–86.

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There was also continued an emigration to Port Limon of labourers enlisted here by agents in connexion with the Costa Rica Railway, which had commenced last year, and 1,183 persons left the Island for that place.

Reports having reached me from various quarters of the distressed condition of large numbers of the people who had emigrated to the Isthmus, and also of those who had been engaged to work on the Costa Rica Railway under, it was alleged, false pretences, I was induced to depute a gentleman of special fitness for the mission to investigate these complaints on the spot. I regret to report that the following conclusions had to be arrived at as regards the Isthmus:—

That it was then overstocked with Jamaicans of all classes who could not find employment.

That there were a great many persons out of employment at Panama, there being little or no work doing there, and that they are frequently imprisoned for trivial offences.

That at both places the unemployed when sick are left to look after themselves, and much distress naturally arises. The state of things in Costa Rica appeared to be, that of the labourers who have proceeded from Jamaica to work on the railroad there many were unemployed.

That the condition of those employed practically amounted in many cases to destitution, leading to much sickness, distress, and mortality.

I considered it my duty in making public these conclusions, at which I had arrived, to warn the people of Jamaica of the risk they would incur by proceeding to Panama and Port Limon under the then existing circumstances. I am not aware that things have since improved there.

The returning emigrants from Colon during the year were 7,132, and from Port Limon 63.

Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the bank has been as follows for the last 10 years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		£
1878	6,002	273,620
1879	6,341	294,589
1880	7,297	333,970
1881	7,970	342,339
1882	9,543	324,847
1883	11,925	325,705
1884	13,602	350,546
1885	15,511	360,190
1886	16,320	363,292
1887	17,047	363,481

showing a comparatively small increase in the deposits in the year under review while the number of depositors has increased by over 700.

In the above amount of deposits are included five deposit accounts for the following public funds :—

	£	s.	d.
Immigration Return Passage Fund -	12,226	15	8
Constabulary Reward Fund - -	330	19	9
Sinking funds - - - -	3,715	1	7
Constabulary Pension Fund - -	88	11	9
Smith and Beckford's Charity - -	30	19	8

There were also 165 accounts for trusts, charities, Chancery suits, Administrator-General, and bankrupt estates amounting to a total deposit of 28,367*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* The remaining 17,056 accounts, representing 319,929*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, are all ordinary and legitimate savings bank deposits.

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year, 11,248 were for 5*l.* and under and only 928 were for over 100*l.* That the bank meets the wants and enjoys the confidence of the classes for whom it was intended is evidenced by the continued increase in the number of small accounts.

The assets of the bank at 30th September last were distributed as follows :—

	£
In 3 per cent. consols - - -	20,061
In New South Wales inscribed stock -	31,559
In Canada „ „ -	1,486
In Victoria „ „ -	12,015
In Canada debentures - - -	53,991
In Victoria „ - - -	47,309
In New South Wales debentures -	60,997
In Cape of Good Hope „ - -	48,056
In Ceylon - - - -	14,836
In Jamaica - - - -	830
Planters' notes (immigration) - -	4
In South Australian debentures -	53,531
Cash in Colonial Bank - -	20,054
Total - - -	364,729

During the year 3,706 accounts were opened and 2,979 closed, showing in both cases a slight decrease on comparison with the figures of last year, while the number of deposits was 29,000, and of withdrawals 28,666, representing respectively 174,447*l.* and 183,064*l.*

There were no new sub-branches, opened during the year, and the sub-branch at Easington was closed, no advantage having been

taken of its establishment by the inhabitants in that district. The arrangement under which small investments could be made by means of postage stamps was discontinued, as depositors did not avail themselves of this method of depositing in the bank.

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to 12,574*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, while the revenue realised was 13,835*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*, thus showing a net profit of 1,261*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* on the year's transactions.

Trade.

The value of the imports in each of the last 10 years has been as follows :—

	£
1877–78 - - - -	1,492,722
1878–79 - - - -	1,347,342
1879–80 - - - -	1,475,197
1880–81 - - - -	1,392,699
1881–82 - - - -	1,321,962
1882–83 - - - -	1,625,411
1883–84 - - - -	1,568,639
1884–85 - - - -	1,487,833
1885–86 - - - -	1,325,603
1886–87 - - - -	1,351,394

thus showing a small increase on the figures of the year before.

The import trade is, for the purposes of the tariff, divided into three classes, viz.: goods on which the duty is charged on the cost, goods on which specific duties are imposed, and duty-free goods. Under these heads the figures for this year, and the year immediately preceding are as follows :—

	1886–87.	1885–86.
	£	£
Ad valorem goods - - -	584,054	519,958
Rated goods - - -	601,781	650,926
Free goods - - - -	165,559	150,221

The increase in the importation of the *ad valorem* goods was to have been expected, the importations having been very low in the preceding year.

The items showing an increase are clothing, ready-made, 4,380*l.*; cotton, 41,500*l.*; drugs and medicines, 2,624*l.*; groceries, 2,100*l.*; hardware and cutlery, 5,500*l.*; hats and bonnets, 1,400*l.*; milk, condensed, 2,930*l.*; unenumerated manufactured goods, 2,730*l.*; and woollen manufactures, 2,400*l.* Under the rated goods there is a very large decrease, principally under the articles of food and drink, and in regard to this the Collector General remarks that "although many articles of luxury are included in the various

"items comprising this general head, reduced importations of "which would point to straitened circumstances, yet I think the "lessened importations of food stuffs year by year is satisfactory "evidence that the country is becoming more self-supporting "than in former years, and is therefore not an unwelcome sign." Under building materials, which also come under rated goods, the large decrease is attributed to the large inportations of lumber in the preceding year. Under free goods the increase is principally under specie, owing to a large amount in Jubilee coins imported by the Colonial Bank to be put in circulation here, and under shooks, as the natural consequence of a good sugar crop. There were, however, fallings off under coals and steam engines and parts thereof, the former being consequent on fewer steamers using the port of Kingston as a coaling station, and the latter to the circumstance that there was no occasion to augment the rolling stock of the railway during the year, and but small importations of estate machinery.

The imports were drawn from the several countries in the following proportions:—

United Kingdom - - -	54·7 per cent.
Canada - - - -	8·4 "
United States - - -	33·6 "
Other countries - - -	3·3 "

thus showing a slight increase in the proportion of trade with the United Kingdom, which was 51·3 in the year before

The following table, showing the value of imported articles which were freed from duty in the tariff under the Law 6 of 1867, is given in continuation of similar tables in previous reports:—

—	1877-78.	1878-79.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Steam engines -	8,857	7,306	2,802	20,709	10,380	14,199	12,604	9,268	10,704	4,287
Mills - -	2,115	5,724	2,661	1,702	2,203	1,563	2,516	862	257	564
Other machinery -	3,113	3,402	3,323	5,075	3,260	5,324	6,618	2,509	3,553	2,442
Pans for boiling sugar.	2,483	2,124	6,132	1,190	809	2,025	1,067	—	201	435
Pipes for fluids -	2,095	1,193	1,435	1,534	2,600	3,512	4,358	2,365	8,205	3,472
Stills - -	1,880	433	696	5,217	1,777	1,489	312	72	1,102	998
Shooks of all sorts	11,761	7,460	8,488	4,379	12,424	13,724	13,520	11,588	7,149	13,649
Staves - -	6,040	4,524	10,519	3,299	10,645	6,148	10,590	9,052	3,375	3,822
Wood hoops -	2,066	1,643	1,919	756	1,932	1,923	1,047	1,107	855	266
Iron, galvanized -	2,229	2,097	974	5,156	3,595	9,469	8,649	4,758	3,132	3,036
„ other manufactures.	381	—	1,344	4,964	14	433	1,109	—	—	—
Miscellaneous -	3,730	4,689	4,592	7,443	5,015	7,118	5,242	4,854	4,339	2,608
	46,750	40,798	64,885	61,415	54,654	66,927	67,632	46,435	42,872	35,579

These figures do not call for any special remark.

The value of the exports in each of the last 10 years is shown below :—

Year.	Of Produce and Manufactures of the Colony.	Of British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£
1877–78 - -	1,165,145	35,560	1,210,705
1878–79 - -	1,262,869	94,702	1,357,571
1879–80 - -	1,427,144	85,834	1,512,978
1880–81 - -	1,104,407	74,187	1,178,594
1881–82 - -	1,471,917	77,141	1,549,058
1882–83 - -	1,365,868	103,578	1,469,446
1883–84 - -	1,350,900	133,089	1,483,989
1884–85 - -	1,181,203	227,645	1,408,848
1885–86 - -	1,078,315	201,803	1,280,118
1886–87 - -	1,334,468	174,542	1,509,010

thus showing an increase of 256,153*l.* in Island produce, and a falling off in the value of goods re-exported of 27,261*l.*, leaving a net increase of 228,892*l.*

This large increase is chiefly under the following important items of our products: Sugar, 61,747*l.*; rum, 117,030*l.*; coffee 89,151*l.*; dyewoods, 9,243*l.*; while there were decreases under fruit, 16,939*l.*; pimento, 856*l.*; and minor items, 4,272*l.* The large increase in sugar, rum, and coffee is entirely due to good crops, and not in any way to extended cultivation, though the increased prices recently obtained will doubtless now lead to increased cultivation. The increase in the price of coffee has especially benefited the small settlers, who have this year made large sums of money by their sales. The decrease in fruit was caused by the reduced price ruling in the American markets, which naturally led to smaller shipments. The actual quantity of pimento exported was larger than in the year before, but prices not being so good caused a decrease in the comparative value.

The value of the several articles of Island produce bears the following per-centage proportion to the total export value :—

——	1880–81.	1881–82.	1882–83.	1883–84.	1884–85.	1885–86.	1886–87.
Sugar - -	30·5	41·7	40	32	26	16	17·5
Rum -	15·7	20·1	16	16	20	14	20·
Coffee -	20·9	9·1	12	7	13	9	13·8
Dyewoods -	11·9	6·2	8	10	13	15	13·5
Fruit -	4·	8·4	11	20	15	18	14·3
Pimento -	8·	7·7	7	6	4	4	3·
Other -	9·	6·8	6	9	9	24	17·6

Thus showing on the year before a slight recovery in sugar, rum and coffee, though the first named has not by any means regained its old place.

The exports of the principal staples in the last 10 years is shown in the following table :—

—	1877-78.	1878-79.	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.
Sugar - - hhds.	26,066	29,151	32,117	21,056	38,392
Rum - - phns.	18,115	18,792	18,586	13,952	22,742
Coffee - - lbs.	9,411,662	10,832,127	10,188,897	9,846,096	7,418,638
Pimento - - lbs.	6,195,109	5,881,176	10,215,479	6,058,264	8,514,517
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	36,070	58,658	48,024	45,459	33,409
Ginger - - lbs.	908,603	769,636	889,847	751,494	608,384
Arrowroot - lbs.	4,599	7,982	4,480	1,888	5,116
Fruit, value - £	40,175	51,295	51,295	44,216	124,269

(*continued*).

—	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.
Sugar - - hhds.	30,783	29,427	24,986	16,460	23,043
Rum - - phns.	20,085	20,364	20,805	14,763	24,126
Coffee - - lbs.	9,448,100	4,295,994	9,033,606	6,150,960	6,337,742
Pimento - - lbs.	9,551,630	12,372,863	9,794,078	6,919,087	7,335,712
Dyewoods—fustic and logwood - tons	33,108	46,724	57,533	65,082	63,114
Ginger - - lbs.	836,889	1,359,321	9,379,056	1,193,158	1,111,926
Arrowroot - lbs.	2,515	3,655	1,008	1,010	1,693
Fruit, value - £	132,962	253,021	181,650	231,522	215,583

The several increases and decreases apparent in these figures have been already commented on.

The exports from the Colony during the past eight years were distributed among the different countries in the following proportions :—

—	1879-80.	1880-81.	1881-82.	1882-83.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.
United Kingdom -	67·3	66·5	62·5	54·46	43·4	37·2	39·7	38·6
Dominion of Canada -	5·2	6·2	12·9	16·66	13·4	5·4	3·5	1·3
United States -	20·1	18·9	17·8	19·07	31·1	42·2	44·	43·9
Other countries -	7·4	8·4	6·8	6·81	12·1	15·2	12·8	16·2

Thus showing that the decrease in our trade relations with Canada which set in when the direct steam communication ceased has been continued.

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Agriculture.

The depression in agricultural operations, caused in one direction by the low price of sugar, which was noticed in my last year's report, continued during the year under review, and, I regret to say, increased. The cultivation of cane was restricted in every parish of the Island, the falling off in total acreage bring 2,318 acres as compared with the previous year, the figures bring 35,265 acres this year as compared with 37,583 acres last year.

In spite, however, of this restriction the returns show a large increase in the exports of sugar and rum, which is entirely to be attributed to good crops. The increase in the item of rum is most marked, the quantity exported being greater than in any of the preceding six years, and exceeding that of the best of those years, 1882, by nearly 5,000*l.* in value, and over 138,000 gallons in quantity.

With the prospect—in the near future, let us hope—of the abolition of the bounty system, it may be expected reasonably, if not regarded as certain, that the quantity and value of our output of sugar will increase. The following apposite remarks from the annual report of the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations may conveniently be reproduced here: "It will be more than ever "necessary (then) to pay the strictest attention to improving the "quality of the cane, as well as the quality of the manufactured "article." And it may be added that an important step in the interests of sugar planters would be made by a systematic study of the soil in the several localities devoted to cultivation, a study which it is feared has been much overlooked.

The recent rise in the coffee market can hardly as yet have had any effect on the extension of planting in this line of agriculture, but, as a matter of fact, extended cultivation of coffee is noticeable in two parishes. There were 16,637 acres returned as under coffee cultivation in this island during the past year and, though by no means a good crop was obtained, it was in excess of that of the previous year. It is satisfactory to hear on all sides favourable prognostics of the ensuing crop, coupled as they appear to be with a good demand for the article, as is evidenced by the fact that the yield from agricultural produce buyers' licenses has more than doubled, owing to the great activity and competition among coffee dealers.

The subject of the export of fruit naturally finds a place in a report from Jamaica and agriculture, although it is to nature rather than to the art of the cultivator that most of the orange crop must be attributed, the majority of the orange trees now in bearing being self-sown. There has, however, been a lively disposition evinced since the fruit trade assumed promising proportions to systematically plant out and cultivate oranges and other fruits of the citrus tribe, and in the course of time this movement must greatly augment the quantity of the fruit and enhance its reputation.

The exports of fruit show a falling off in value this year, owing to a lessened shipment of bananas and cocoanuts. This, in the Collector-General's opinion, may be ascribed to a fall of 75 per

cent. in the price towards the close of the year, when the bulk of the bananas reach maturity, thus bringing them in competition with American autumn fruits. It has not been lost sight of by banana growers that they must endeavour to produce the fruit at the time it is most in demand in the American market, and efforts are being directed to that end.

The output of oranges in the past year reached 42,391,803, but these numbers very inadequately represent even the present capabilities of the Island as an orange-producing country, and, as has been before remarked, the more systematic cultivation now being carried on must in the future swell the value of the exports of this fruit very largely.

The cultivation of "ground provisions," as edible roots are alled here, is almost entirely in the hands of small settlers. It must therefore mean much prosperity to them that the exports of yam to Colon have risen to nearly 16,000*l.* in value from 84*l.* seven years ago.

The progress of agricultural operations generally throughout the year may be fairly estimated by the fact that the total value of exports of Island produce was 1,334,469*l.*, as compared with 1,078,315*l.* last year.

Police.

The police force on the 30th September 1887 consisted of 1 inspector general, 14 inspectors, 4 sub-inspectors, 120 non-commissioned officers, and 571 men, being a total of 710 of all ranks, or one below the allowed strength for the year. To this strength must be added 210 rural headmen of police, giving an effective police establishment of 920.

The regular police were distributed as follows during the year: 192 in Kingston, 438 in the 13 other parishes of the Island, and 61 at the depôt at Spanish Town.

The services rendered by the constabulary during the year as compared with previous years are as noted below:—

	1882–83.	1883–84.	1884–85.	1885–86.	1886–87.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information	4,849	5,994	5,106	5,148	4,849
Number of persons apprehended on warrants	1,783		1,394	1,753	1,729
Number of search warrants executed	104	102	64	85	82
Number of persons summoned	11,253	27,545	11,452	—	12,956
Number of persons subpœnaed	16,522		15,112	11,707	17,832
Number of seizures under revenue laws	745	663	587	333	393
Number of post-mortems ordered	457	287	270	337	338
Number of prisoners escorted	9,912	7,324	7,068	9,798	9,081

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The criminal returns for the year show four cases of murder, two of which were child murder. Of this number two were convicted, one was reduced to manslaughter, and the fourth, that of a girl in the suburbs of Kingston, has not been traced. There were 19 cases of manslaughter, with 2 remanets from the previous year, of which 10 were discharged for want of evidence or prosecution, 3 were acquitted, and 9 were convicted, one of the latter number having been reduced from murder.

Of other offences against the person there were 10 cases of "concealing birth," being an increase of two on the previous year; three of these were convicted. This crime is unfortunately too common an offence, and some of the cases that have occurred have given rise to grave suspicion as to the more serious crime of child murder having been committed.

There were 225 cases of "cutting and wounding," or 38 less than in 1885–86; 115 of these were convicted. The returns show four cases of "shooting with intent," two of which were convicted.

Offences against property committed with violence show a decrease on last year. The most serious of these crimes were breaking into dwelling-houses and stealing, and breaking into shops, warehouses, counting-houses and stealing. They numbered with remanets from the previous year 82 and 72 respectively in 1886–87, against 94 and 69 in 1885–86. Many of the cases of shop-breaking were due to the carelessness of the occupants in failing to secure their places at night, and it is stated that great indifference is often shown by such persons when the fact of their places having been found open is reported by the police. 344 places were found open at night by the police during the year.

Offences against property committed without violence show a very appreciable decrease as compared with last year. Larceny of small stock, larceny in dwelling houses, larceny of ground provisions, simple and prædial larceny being the most conspicuous.

Arson and attempts at arson show a decrease when compared with the two previous years. In many cases of injury to property by fire the circumstances which come to light, added to the fact that the premises are heavily insured, make it evident to the police that the fire was not accidental, though the proof to bring the crime home to any particular person may be wanting. It is hoped that Law 23 of 1887, called "The Inquiry into causes of Fire "and Accidents Law," may aid the police in this respect.

The crime of feloniously wounding and maiming horses, cattle, &c., is still prevalent, although showing a decrease. The police have recently received instructions which it is hoped may prove beneficial, and tend to further reduce these offences.

The constabulary rendered good and effective service in carrying out the Vaccination, Sanitary, Weights and Measures, Birds and Fish Protection Laws. Vaccination was satisfactorily performed in a great measure through the instrumentality of the police, and the isolation of small-pox devolved almost entirely on the force. 55 persons were prosecuted during the year for breaches of the Birds

and Fish Protection Law. The dog nuisance in Kingston received the attention of the constabulary, and has been much abated. A large amount of extra work was thrown on the force by the Jubilee celebrations, and also by the small-pox epidemic, and, it is pleasing to remark, was performed in a cheerful and uncomplaining manner.

Prisons.

The number of prisoners in custody in all the prisons and gaols of the Island on the 30th September 1887 was 795, a decrease of eight as compared with the previous year. The numbers in each of the last five years have been as follows:—

1883	811
1884	750
1885	782
1886	803
1887	795

	Increase.	Decrease.
General Penitentiary	20	—
St. Catherine's District Prison	—	4
Falmouth do.	7	—
Hanover do.	—	27
Morant Bay Short Term Prison	—	8
Black River do.	—	—
Port Antonio do.	—	1
Middlesex and Surrey County Gaol	5	—
Total	32	40

There were 3,586 commitments to all the prisons during the year under review, a decrease of 246 on the previous year, but the re-convictions this year number 1,187, being 114 more than the large number reported for the previous year 1885–86.

The deaths in the General Penitentiary were only 7 during the year; last year there were 17.

There were 14 deaths in all the other prisons during the year all occurring from natural causes; last year there were 15 deaths, one of which was an execution.

The net cost of all the prisons amounted to 13,832*l.* 14*s.* 4¾*d.*, or 17*l.* 10*s.* 2½*d.* per prisoner per annum, being an increase of 12*s.* 2½*d.* on the previous year, and the gross earnings in cash amounted to 3,322*l.* 0*s.* 6¾*d.* The estimated value of labour which yielded no return in money was 3,555*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*; last year it was 3,466*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* The amount received for cash sales has been 3,322*l.* 0*s.* 6¾*d.*

The prisoners continue to be employed in brickmaking, lime-burning, quarrying stone, and in washing clothing for the prisons and for public institutions, the value of the washing done being 806*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, an increase of 167*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* on the previous year.

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School was held regularly in the General Penitentiary for two hours each evening after work, and arrangements have been made for schools at the St. Catherine, Falmouth, and Hanover district prisons.

Religious services at the General Penitentiary are conducted by the paid chaplains, Episcopalian, Wesleyan, Baptist, and Roman Catholic. It is to be regretted that in the other prisons generally, religious ministrations are not satisfactory, and it has not been found feasible to make provision for the payment of remuneration to ministers of the various denominations for services at the smaller prisons.

Vital Statistics.

The total estimated population at the end of the year was 607,798.

The natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths during the year has been 6,323 against 7,771 in 1885–86. The average natural increase for the preceding six years was 8,428, and this goes to show that even after allowing for the loss by the epidemic of small-pox a considerable falling off in the growth of population is taking place as compared with previous years.

The emigration of labourers to the Isthmus of Panama and Port Limon has also caused during the year a loss of 4,406, which deducted from the natural increase leaves the net increase of population at only 1,917.

The rates of natural increase show considerable variation in the several parishes, ranging from 3·6 in St. Andrew to 23·3 in St. Elizabeth. Kingston shows a decrease of population to the extent of 263, and for the first time St. Thomas shows a natural decrease. Both these decreases are mainly to be attributed to the visitation of small-pox.

The births registered numbered 20,964, a rate of 34·7 per 1,000 of the population, showing a decrease of 867 as compared with last year. Of this number 10,598 were males and 10,366 females. The per-centage of illegitimate births was 59·8 per cent., a rate which I regret to say shows no sign of decreasing.

14,641 deaths were registered, a rate of 24·2 per 1,000 of the population. This is an increase of 581 over last year, for which the small-pox epidemic is largely accountable. The number of deaths not medically certified remains very large.

2,663 marriages were performed, showing an increase of 273 over last year, which is satisfactory. The per-centage of illiterate persons among the married is this year 55·8 as against 55·4 last year, and it is worthy of mention that 46·8 per cent. of the men were unable to write, and 64·8 per cent. of the women.

By Law 12 of 1885 the dependency of the Cayman Islands was brought under a system of registration.

The births at Grand Cayman were 154, being a rate of 50·2 per 1,000; of these 14 were illegitimate. The deaths numbered 29, a rate of 9·4 per 1,000; and there were 28 mariages during the year.

The total population in this Island was 3,066 at the census of 1881, and it will be observed that the birth-rate is much higher and the death-rate much lower than in the mother colony, although these 3,000 people are without a doctor and depend for skilled medical aid entirely on the surgeons of Her Majesty's ships which at long intervals call there. Most happily the Cayman Islands have been free from the disease of small-pox from which Jamaica has suffered.

General.

The year under review was marked in its social history here by the celebration of the Jubilee of Her Majesty's reign in a thoroughly loyal and patriotic manner. The greatest enthusiasm was manifested by all classes throughout the Island. Each parish had its celebrations and at Kingston thousands of people came from a distance to enjoy the illuminations, the fireworks, the spectacle of three of Her Majesty's ships moored off Kingston displaying lights and firing rockets, and a most effective review of sailors, marines, troops, and militia, as well as a great procession and parade of school children. The behaviour of all classes throughout these rejoicings was most orderly and creditable.

Work on the Panama Canal and the Costa Rica Railway continues to attract the labourers from Jamaica, 10,418 persons having left for the Isthmus and 1,183 for the latter place during the year Of course the labourers come and go from time to time, some having saved money, many unfortunately broken down by sickness; 7,195 emigrants returned during the year. There is no doubt that a large per-centage of those who leave our shores succumb to the diseases and privations they meet with, aided, it is to be feared, by the dissipations into which some of them are led.

The seasons generally throughout the Island have been favourable and the provisions of the country and the fruit both abundant and cheap, rendering the condition of the labouring classes in this respect especially easy.

The Board of Supervision in connexion with the system of pauper relief in the Colony, which was appointed under section 4 of Law 6 of 1886, give evidence in their first annual report just submitted of the good service of organization upon which they have been engaged. It will be remembered that the constitution of this body called forth much opposition from some of the parochial boards; but, greatly owing to the tact and good sense which have characterized the proceedings of the Board of Supervision, this has died away in the face of experience of the Board s working, and the parochial boards have generally co-operated cordially with the Board of Supervision. The Board state in their report that "no questions or differences arose between any " parochial boards or the officials of any such boards so as to require " the intervention of the Board of Supervision." This is very satisfactory and no doubt the actual pauper is benefiting by greater care while there is a strong check upon the pauper list being increased by those who are capable of earning a living if they

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would exert themselves. It may further be noticed in connexion with this matter that at the end of the financial year there were 4,477 paupers on the rolls in the 14 parishes of the Island, 3,775 of whom received outdoor relief. A comparison with the population gives a per-centage of paupers of 0·7, which is small in comparison with other places.

The question of the suitability of this Island as a breeding place for horses fit for army remounts was brought forward prominently during the year, and at the request of the colonel commanding I placed at his disposal the services of Captain Coxhead, R.A., at that time my aide-de-camp and private secretary, and Mr. L. F. Mackinnon, manager of the Jamaica Railway, to investigate the matter and report. Their report was forwarded in due course, but nothing practical has as yet resulted from it.

Public opinion has been much divided on proposals for considerably extending the present lines of railway, and a survey of the proposed lines was undertaken during the year under the direction of the Director of Public Works. The question, however, of providing for the annual expenditure which would have to be met beyond what the receipts from such extensions could be expected to yield for several years remains yet to be dealt with. To investigate the probable traffic returns I appointed Mr. George Henderson, a former member of the Legislative Council and a prominent man of business, and Mr. Robert Batten, supervisor of revenue offices, to inquire and report. These gentlemen were pursuing their inquiry, but had not reported, at the close of the financial year.

It is quite certain that no railway extension can be undertaken without some additional taxation, and as it is pretty certain that some further taxation will have to be introduced to meet even ordinary expenditure, it has to be proved whether the community are really prepared for the additional burden that would be entailed by railway construction.

The militia force of the Island now consists of 600 of all ranks, including garrison artillery, mounted infantry, and infantry. The force has made good progress during the year, and has zealous commanders and an efficient staff. It would prove a most valuable auxiliary to the regular troops in the event of war, and the Kingston portion made an excellent appearance at the Jubilee review. Arrangements were in progress for the instruction of the artillery and infantry in heavy gun and rifle practice, and have since the commencement of the year been brought into operation.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN,
Governor.

King's House, Jamaica,
5th May 1888.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

[For previous Reports *see* 1886 [C.—5071]; 1885 [C.—4842]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3388].]

Governor Sir H. W. NORMAN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, King's House, April 23, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1887, together with a copy of the Commissioner's report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. W. NORMAN,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS for 1887.

1. *Finance.*

The receipts from all sources in 1887 were over 1,500*l.* less than those for 1886, amounting to only 6,202*l.* 16*s.*, which, added to the balance of 2,146*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* from the previous year, gave a gross revenue of 8,349*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* The expenditure from ordinary revenue was 5,966*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, and an amount of 411*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* was specially voted from surplus funds, making the total expenditure for 1887 6,378*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, leaving a balance of 1,971*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* to be brought to credit in 1888 after all liabilities for 1887 have been fully discharged.

There is no public debt, and the sum of 1,000*l.* is invested in England to meet any extraordinary call.

2. *Public Works.*

The new stone building at Grand Turk, containing magistrate's court, police station, and fireproof record room, which was commenced in 1886, was finished in 1887, and was occupied during the last half of the year. It has been found to answer its purpose admirably, and is a vast improvement on the old wooden hut in which the magistrates have held their courts for many years past. When the ruined sheds in the Government yard are removed, or put into repair, as I trust they will be during the year, the group of Government buildings will be a credit to the

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Settlement. No new work of any importance except the magistrate's court was undertaken during the year, as all the money available was needed for general repairs, the heavy gales which prevailed during the autumn having done much damage to the wharves and abutments, which had to be made good at once.

3. *Legislation.*

No laws were passed in 1887 beyond the usual supply ordinances.

4. *Civil Establishment.*

Mr. J. M. Rae, Assistant Commissioner at Grand Turk, acted as Judge of the Supreme Court from the 28th May to the 27th August, during the absence on leave of Judge Robarts, who was again absent from the 15th November to the end of the year, when his duties were performed by Mr. E. H. Johnson, barrister-at-law. Mr. Rae left for the Bahamas, to which Colony he was transferred on the 1st November, as Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, and was succeeded as Assistant Commissioner by Mr. W. N. Rigby, who however died on the 10th November before assuming his duties. No permanent appointments have been made to the vacant offices. Dr. L. R. Quin, who had been appointed Government Medical Officer in succession to Dr. Blanc, arrived in the Settlement in April, but left again in May on transfer to the Jamaica Medical Service, Dr. A. R. Andrews being appointed to succeed him as Medical Officer of these Settlements.

5. *Pensions.*

Dr. D. B. Bascome, late Government Medical Officer, who retired in 1886 on a pension of 158*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, died in New York on the 6th December. No fresh pensions were added during the year, but the keeper of the gaol has applied to retire.

6. *Education.*

There was no increase in the number of schools, and the number of scholars on the books remained the same, viz. 783. The average attendance is, however, less than half of this number, being only 359, and showing a falling-off of over 25 per cent. since 1884. This decrease is attributable chiefly to three causes, first, to unsuitable hours, as the children are required at home, or to carry breakfast to their parents at work for some time after the school opens in the morning. The hours have now been altered. The second cause is the want of proper supervision over the masters, as it has been found impossible from various causes for the past two years to provide for the regular school inspection, and as most of the schools are situated on distant and isolated islands,

where there are no chance visitors, the masters are left entirely to themselves, and are apt to grow careless. The third cause is that the masters are, not unnaturally, inclined to take pains with the brighter children or those in whom they are specially interested, and to give up too much time to teaching them a smattering of higher and, to them, useless subjects, at the expense of the more elementary training. The general efficiency of the schools suffers from this, and the children thus taught think themselves, as a rule, above manual labour, while they are really almost ludicrously ignorant. This defect would be partly cured by regular inspection, and I trust the measures adopted this year to secure this will be found effectual also in providing for a regular annual inspection in future. Sewing mistresses have now been appointed to all the schools, except that at Lorimers, and the girls are already showing the benefit of teaching in this hitherto neglected branch of their training.

7. *Imports and Exports.*

The year 1887 was a disastrous one for the staple trade in salt, as far as revenue and also as the distribution of wages were concerned, the shipment only amounting to 1,152,302 bushels, or about two thirds the average export and half the possible production. The stock on hand at the beginning of the year was nominal, and the unfavourable weather at the commencement of the season made the prospects of a good crop very doubtful. Owing to this the price was suddenly raised by the exporters, and vessels arriving here for cargoes found themselves obliged to purchase at a considerable advance on the rates expected when they left, which led to great dissatisfaction among the importers in the United States and in the maritime provinces of Canada, and to a consequent partial withdrawal of the demand. The crop actually raked was little short of the average, but less than three fourths of it were shipped, leaving a large stock on hand. The increased price, which was from 8 to 10 cents a bushel for coarse salt and 10 to 12 for fish salt, has been profitable to the exporters, but as the royalty is collected on a fixed nominal price (now 7 cents a bushel) the revenue has suffered heavily from the small shipment, as have also the labourers, whose gains are measured by the number of bushels raked and shipped, irrespective of price. As the salt merchants invariably combine a retail business with their salt trade, and the labourers' earnings are spent across the counters of these stores, the smaller profits on the retail trade go far to balance the gain on the exports, and I think that the experience of the past year has brought this fact home to the merchants, and has taught them a useful lesson. The result will, I am convinced, be that no attempt will be made to raise the price this year, no matter what may be the prospects of the crop, as when the stock left on hand is too large it has often to be cleared off at a loss to make room for the fresh crop, and, besides, the risk of driving away the trade is fully recognized.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

The imports were about the average, except in flour and rum, the duty on the former being considerably less and on the latter considerably larger than in 1886. Tables are attached showing the trade as compared with former years.

VALUE of EXPORTS of DOMESTIC PRODUCE and MANUFACTURES in the years 1885, 1886, and 1887.

Articles.	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salt - - - -	24,197 1 11	27,000 2 7	21,409 7 8
Cave earth - - -	1,818 13 4	—	—
Sponge - - - -	356 18 0	282 5 10	282 5 0
Straw, shells, &c. - -	180 0 0	142 0 0	286 0 0
Totals - -	26,552 13 3	27,424 8 5	21,977 12 8

VALUE of IMPORTS for the years 1885, 1886, and 1887.

—	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Imports - -	27,857 16 2	30,165 5 2	26,726 8 4

AVERAGE QUANTITY of SALT exported from each Port for the six years 1880 to 1885; and actual EXPORT for 1886 and 1887.

Ports.	1880 to 1885.	1886.	1887.
Grand Turk - -	602,630	589,038	336,760
Salt Cay - - -	443,542	524,562	369,706
Cockburn Harbour -	487,091	477,774	445,836
Total Bushels -	1,523,263	1,591,374	1,152,302

Salt in the Colony on 31st December 1885 - 450,000 bushels.
" " " 1886 - 50,000 "
" " " 1887 - 300,000 "

RAINFALL for the year 1887 compared with average of the previous five years.

Month.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Kew.
January	·87	2·64	·62	·60
February	1·61	1·57	·74	3·19
March	·85	3·45	·56	·25
April	2·81	2·26	2·25	2·22
May	4·85	2·39	2·30	4·57
June	2·57	2·63	1·96	7·76
July	·42	·46	·80	·48
August	3·88	2·59	2·09	6·30
September	1·88	2·72	2·22	9·12
October	6·24	5·81	3·48	5·00
November	5·27	3·49	5·01	10·66
December	2·35	·68	·94	3·05
Total	33·60	30·69	22·97	53·20
Average for five years, 1882 to 1886	27·02	23·11	24·58	43·16

SCHEDULE of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the PUBLIC REVENUE for the year 1887 in comparison with the preceding year 1886.

	1886.			1887.		
Imports.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Alcohol	1	0	0	5	0	0
Ale, porter, cider, &c.	7	16	8	11	19	6
Bay water	13	0	0	18	4	0
Bread	15	13	7	13	4	0
Butter	57	14	11	65	17	3
Cheese	21	13	0	21	13	6
Cigars	6	11	0	4	14	0
Flour, wheat	543	14	11	461	18	2
Lard	76	10	11	78	15	9
Lumber and shingles	95	6	2	89	11	2
Meat, salted and cured	173	13	3	185	14	7
Oils	27	4	0	40	19	5
Paint in oil	14	14	7	26	5	4
Rice	61	16	3	60	8	9
Rum, brandy, gin, cordials, &c.	545	13	9	789	16	2
Soap	50	12	7	43	9	0
Sugar	271	15	10	246	3	9
Tea	36	10	7	35	5	0
Tobacco	44	2	0	45	8	8
Wine	22	11	4	26	0	1
Ad valorem duties	802	4	0	793	5	0
	2,889	19	3	3,063	13	1

	1886.			1887.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Other Sources of Revenue.						
Royalty of 10 per cent. ad valorem on salt exported: in 1886—1,591,374 bushels; in 1887—1,152,302 bushels	2,320	16	2	1,680	10	2
Light duties	738	0	0	554	10	0
Auction duties	65	16	4	13	11	5
Fines from Supreme and Police Courts	71	1	2	66	8	6
Fees of office	80	18	7	73	12	2
Postage	162	15	8	156	17	10
Post Office Money Order commissions	13	13	5	28	7	0
Liquor licenses	75	0	0	100	0	0
Wine „	58	0	0	58	0	0
Dog Tax	14	14	0	13	1	0
Sales, Crown land	484	15	0	118	5	6
Lease „ „	98	9	8	67	9	3
Receipt from Imperial Post Office in aid of Mail Service	225	0	0	—		
Wharfage and Storage	68	10	6	37	0	11
Miscellaneous	135	5	8	131	9	2
Special	227	19	11	40	0	0
	4,840	16	6	3,139	2	11
Recapitulation.						
Imports	2,889	19	3	3,063	13	1
Other sources	4,840	16	6	3,139	2	11
	7,730	15	9	6,202	16	0
Balance from 1885 and 1886	2,680	12	0	2,146	16	4
	10,411	7	9	8,349	12	4
Expenditure for 1886 and 1887	8,264	11	5	6,378	9	6
Balance for 1887 and 1888	2,146	16	4	1,971	2	10

8. *Agriculture.*

The leases at the so-called agricultural settlements, at Kew and Bottle Creek on the North Caicos, were cancelled during the year, owing to the persistent refusal of the tenants to pay rent, and their failure to comply with any of the other conditions of the leases. In lieu of the leases his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief approved of arrangements being made, whereby the tenants were enabled to acquire their lands on easy terms. The result has been to give a decided stimulus to the cultivation of the lots, as the former tenants seem to take more pride in their crops now that the majority of them are the owners of their lands. The firmness of the resident magistrate, Mr. Leslie, his continued exertions to benefit the people, and his unwearied patience in dealing with them, appear to have established a very satisfactory feeling of confidence among these people, who have also expressed their gratitude for the interest shown in their welfare by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief. My own frequent visits to

these outlying settlements have also had the effect of convincing these people that the Government is not careless as to their progress, and that the measures adopted have resulted from personal knowledge of their wants and wishes. The production of their land has largely increased, and Mr. Leslie, writing in October last, was able to say that "this season corn has been abundant, "and selling at three shillings per bushel, a thing not known for "years, and their bananas are now bringing them in good returns. "From the first of the year up to this time they have shipped "1,320 bunches of bananas and plantains from this Island to "Grand Turk, East Harbour, and Salt Cay; this with the "home consumption, far exceeds anything in that line since "emancipation."

9. *General Remarks.*

The Governor-in-Chief, Sir Henry Norman, visited the Settlement in May last, staying some days at Grand Turk, and also inspecting both Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay. His Excellency's visit was keenly appreciated by the people here, and had the effect of in some measure lessening the sense of separation which is felt in this very isolated dependency since the stoppage of all direct communication with the head-quarters of the Government.

The greatest interest was evinced by the people here in Her Majesty's Jubilee, and a free library and reading room in commemoration thereof is in course of erection by public subscription. I venture to think that no community has been more unanimous in the effort to do honour to the occasion than have the people of these small islands, and none have been more ready to subscribe to some lasting memorial in proportion to their very limited means.

The Settlements are still without a regular mail service, the mails being brought by steamers calling at Grand Turk on their way from the United States to San Domingo and Hayti. As these are five in number they would answer the wants of the place very well if they kept anything like a regular time table, but as they belong to three rival lines, they "tread on each other's heels" very closely, and it has actually happened that all have arrived from New York within a period of ten days, and that we have been left five weeks without a mail.

H. M. JACKSON,
Commissioner.

Turks Islands,
21st February 1888.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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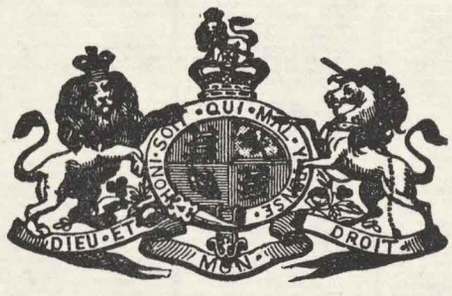
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 22.

LABUAN.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249—19.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	2
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements - -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
0	Lagos (Sanitary Report) -	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½

No. 22.

LABUAN.

[For previous Reports *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4904]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3642].]

Acting Governor A. S. HAMILTON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Labuan,
May 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward by this mail the Labuan Blue Book for the year 1887, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. S. HAMILTON,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Revenue.

1. The revenue for the year amounted to $20,005, being an increase on the estimated revenue of $5,015. The excess was made up as follows:— "Miscellaneous Receipts," $3,000, being the sum paid annually by the British North Borneo Company for the acceptance as legal tender in Labuan of their bronze coinage. This arrangement came into force on the 21st May, and the amount was not allowed for when the estimates for the year were framed. $1,400 in excess of the estimates was received under head of "Land Sales," and $600 under head of "Land Revenue." In former years the quitrent on land had in many instances been allowed to fall one year, and sometimes more, in arrears, but great efforts were made during 1887 to remedy this, with the result that very few arrears of rent were carried forward to 1888.

On allowance being made for the excess under these heads, it will be seen that the revenue collected under other heads of service almost exactly balances that estimated for.

Expenditure.

2. The expenditure amounted to $20,167, being $162 in excess of the revenue, and $1,316 in excess of the estimated expenditure.

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LABUAN.

The excess on the estimates occurred mainly under three heads viz. :—" Repairs to Government House," Miscellaneous Services," and " Special Payments." In the first-named an additional sum of $1,000 was expended on Government House, the original vote being quite inadequate; secondly, the additional sum of $634 was written off to cover loss by exchange on remittances to the Crown Agents, and the special payments amounted to $511, for which no provision was made in the estimates.

Assets

3. The balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st December 1887 amounted to $8,500, of which amount the sum of $6,000 was immediately available, the balance being represented as value of shares in the Labuan Water Company ($1,000) and loan to the Company ($1,500).

The Colony is free from debt.

Legislation.

4. Four Ordinances were passed in 1887. Ordinance No. 1, dealing with the disposal of Crown lands, was framed to amend Ordinance No. 2 of 1863, and by Ordinance No. 3 the Contagious Diseases Act of 1880 was abolished.

Public Works.

5. Considerable repairs were effected to Government House, which almost required rebuilding. As it was impossible to vacate the house, the work was necessarily carried on under difficulties, and at the close of the year was far from being complete. The Settlement roads and a small country foot-path were kept in repair.

Civil Establishments, &c.

Pensions.

Mr. Boyd, the chief constable, was retired on a pension in February, his appointment not being filled up. The Rev. W. D. Beard, who had been in receipt of a pension from the Colony for nearly 15 years, died in November.

Shipping.

The total number of vessels entered during the year, exclusive of men-of-war, yachts, and native craft, amounted to 116, being an increase of 9 on the number entered in 1886. It will be seen

from the following table that there has been a marked increase during the last two years :—

Year.	Vessels entered.	Tonnage.
1883 - - - -	86	23,408
1884 - - - -	87	23,959
1885 - - - -	89	24,116
1886 - - - -	107	26,139
1887 - - - -	116	31,689

The Island was visited by six of Her Majesty's ships. Lord Brassey called in his yacht "Sunbeam," and Sir Fred. Weld remained for a few days during his mission to Borneo in the Straits Government steamer "Sea Belle." The Rajah of Sarawak paid three visits to Labuan during the year.

Trade.

By the following table it will be seen that the value of imports shows a slight falling off on the previous year, while the value of exports has increased. The loss in the imports is, however, not due to a less amount being imported than formerly, but to the fall in the value of raw sago :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$
1884 - - - -	407,370	411,555
1885 - - -	409,598	386,089
1886 - - - -	382,951	403,308
1887 - - - -	370,751	417,551

The trade done in sago during the last three years may be judged from the following statistics :—

Year.	Raw Sago Imported.		Sago Flour Exported.	
	Amount in Piculs.	Value.	Amount in Piculs.	Value.
	$	$	$	$
1885 - -	45,919	40,283	43,256	90,624
1886 - -	59,912	51,252	63,109	138,800
1887 - -	81,626	64,290	57,934	121,741

LABUAN.

The amount of Muara coal exported from Muara shows a steady increase:—

Year.	Tons.	Value.
		$
1885 - - - -	3,723	23,035
1886 - - - -	4,457	29,055
1887 - - - -	5,007	32,545

General.

The health of the Island during the year was good. The daily average in the hospital amounted to 4·5. The total expenditure for medical purposes, including salaries, medicines, and repairs to hospital, amounted to some $1,700, of which the Government share was about $1,350, the remainder being made up from private subscriptions. The cost of upkeep of the apothecary's house is not included in the above amounts, and this building being in a ruinous condition it seems doubtful if the small number of sick justifies such a large expenditure, and it is a matter for consideration whether a small dispensary in the town, under charge of a native dispenser from Singapore, would not be far more useful to the inhabitants than the present isolated establishment, distant some two miles from the town.

The average number in the gaol amounted to 9. This prison may be described as on its last legs and fit only to be condemned. The wall is merely kept up in some parts by wooden shores, and the interior accommodation is not safe for confining dangerous prisoners. Only nine persons were committed to prison during the year, of which three were tried in the general courts. There is, however, a certain amount of crime committed in connexion with financial matters that I have reason to think remains undetected, and will continue to do so in the absence of an European at the head of the police force.

This force, which number only 13, are all natives, and not capable of dealing with any matter entailing much investigation, and there is no one in the force capable of working up a case, a matter generally left to the official who has to try the prisoner.

This species of crime is confined entirely to the more intelligent portion of inhabitants, the bulk of the population giving no trouble at all, and there is not a single policeman residing in the country districts.

The school, which has been nominally under the care of the Bishop since October 1886, has not, I regret to say, realised the expectations anticipated at the time of the transfer, and, like the gaol, may be described as almost on its last legs. The Malays do not appreciate the value of education, and the attendance of the children, not being compulsory, is most irregular. The school

has hitherto been held in one of the barrack-rooms, but hopes are still entertained that matters as regards education will improve when a proper school-house is built and a more energetic teacher provided.

A pleasant feature in connexion with Labuan is that amongst the poorer classes there is no actual poverty. These persons seem happy and contented in their way and give the Government no trouble whatever. The absence of employment, however, at certain seasons falls heavily on the country people, who, if there were more public works in hand would gladly remain in the Island instead of having to leave their families for months sometimes and seek work in North Borneo.

(Signed) A. S. HAMILTON,
Acting Governor.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 20.

LAGOS.

SANITARY REPORT FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1888.

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[C.—5249.—17.]

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1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turk's Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	1
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1

No. 20.

LAGOS.

Governor MOLONEY to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Lagos,
May 15, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the sanitary report on Lagos for 1887 by Dr. Rowland, the Colonial Surgeon and Health Officer. It will be read with interest, and reflects considerable credit on him.

2. There were but few cases of small-pox during the year. This result compares favourably with other years, and is attributed to efficient vaccination.

3. Persons vaccinated during the year numbered 7,560, of whom 4,375 were successfully treated. I attach statistics.*

4. The attendance of native sick at the Colonial Hospital was small as compared with the population. There is an antipathy, difficult to be got over, in the native mind to hospitals or to qualified professional attention. He resorts largely to what is known as the "medicine man" or "bush doctor," who appreciates his preference and does not hesitate to make his patient pay well for it.

5. Then the native is sufficiently credulous to believe, also as qualified, and consequently employs, men whom indeed they commonly style "doctors," some of their countrymen with little or no education, their chief recommendation being that they were former employés of the Government in subordinate positions in hospital, from which they severed themselves by resignation or dismissal.

6. According to the statistics of the Registrar, which are used in the report, 10 Europeans died during the year and 971 natives. There were 298 births. This disproportion, while it would be strange without explanation, cannot be viewed as attributable to a decreasing population, but rather to insufficiency of data consequent on a condition of the law dating from 1863 and much behind the times.

7. I may here remark that a Bill for the registration of births and deaths and regulation of burials is before the Legislature, which I hope will, when passed into law, meet the peculiar wants of the Colony.

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* Not printed.

o 54946. Wt. 18427.

LAGOS.

8. To counteract the local conditions, viz., subsoil moisture and high temperature, favourable to malaria, to which most deaths here are attributed by the Health Officer, I may remark that one of the objects of the Botanic Garden, which has been, I may venture to remark, well started, is the growth and judicious planting out of eucalypts, melalencas, and other absorbing and shade producing trees. Again, the work of street making and hardening has of late made encouraging progress, as will be acknowledged when I say that within the period of the last three months 750 yards of good hard road, of a mean breadth of 23 feet, have been substituted for a deep sand track; this service proceeds.

9. The Health Officer very properly invites attention to the important work that has been done by the Government and private individuals in the shape of filling up swamps in the town to the extent of some 50,000 square yards. Dr. Rowland is fully justified in his conclusion that the sanitary importance of this work cannot be over estimated.

10. Again, outside, but in the vicinity of the town, important reclamation and filling in of swamp land proceed. The recommendations by the Health Officer in this direction will be adopted, but must be dependent on our ways and means.

11. The large swamp known as Oke Suna on the north-east side of the Island, *vide* Sheet 2 of map of capital of Lagos, has been entirely apportioned out among some of the inhabitants, under the conditions embodied in the accompanying form* of permissive occupancy grant. Its area equals 147,830 square yards, and it is estimated that had the filling in to be undertaken by the Government it would cost 14,783*l.*

12. Apart from the sanitary view, the importance of this work when carried out, in affording a considerable additional building area to this already over-crowded capital, has not escaped the notice of the Goverment.

13. On the extent and value of the filling in of swamp land I purpose to address your Lordship in a separate Despatch.

14. With regard to the carrying out of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, 1878, and its amendment Ordinance, 1883, on which there seemed to exist among officials certain doubts as to their respective duties, I had issued in December last the accompanying Departmental Instructions,* clearly distributing according to the provisions of the law the responsibility in each case.

15. On the local water supply the Health Officer reports that for an African town it is excellent. I append a return,* which has also appeared in the gazette, of the public wells of this capital which affords useful data. All are now in serviceable order, are protected from surface soakage, have each been lined inside with cement, and those without pumps shall be each supplied with one during the current year. The attached Departmental Instruc-

* Not printed.

tions* provide for the proper maintenance of the pumps and wells.

16. It is indeed lamentable to find that the European houses here of many years' standing mostly depend on well water; the consequence is dysentery makes at times sad havoc among their inmates. Galvanised iron tanks should be supplied to all such houses as are now dependent on well water. The supply of such in 1886 to all the Government officers' quarters has been an immense boon.

17. The latrine accommodation is not yet, of course, what is intended. The model that was approved by your predecessor in December 1886 has been erected and reported on satisfactorily. It will not in my opinion be necessary to have others supplied of such weight, thus expenditure can be considerably reduced. It will be my duty to submit later a report on what may be considered necessary.

18. A very useful meteorological return for the year, which I have had for convenience of reference printed, admitting of monthly comparisons, completes Dr. Rowland's sanitary report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.
&c. &c. &c.

SANITARY REPORT for the YEAR 1887.

The latitude and geological structure of the Island of Lagos are not such as would recommend themselves to a sanitarian who had the selection of a site for a town.

The island is alluvial and being in the tropics could not be otherwise than malarious. The level of the ground water never retires far from the surface. In the driest season it is in some wells not six feet deep, in Olowogbowo, the most elevated part of the Island, at this season water is found at a depth of 21 feet, and the average depth as found by the measurement of Government wells erected only in the more elevated quarters is 13 feet. In the rains the water is close to the surface, in some places indeed above it. This is very favourable for the production of malaria.

The general health of the native population for the year has been fairly good, small-pox not having committed its usual ravages. There were only six persons admitted for this disease to the contagious diseases hospital; of these one case was very doubtful. No deaths are recorded. This is very favourable and must be attributed to efficient vaccination. The number of those vaccinated with

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* Not printed.

LAGOS.

the results and also the number of cases of small-pox will be seen for each month of the year in the following table:—

Month.	Number vaccinated.	Successfully.	Unsuccessfully.	Did not return for inspection.	Cases of small-pox in Hospital.	
					Admitted.	Died.
January	546	252	80	214	—	—
February	488	236	69	183	—	—
March	654	359	68	227	—	—
April	770	513	67	190	—	—
May	738	389	131	218	—	—
June	782	514	75	193	5	—
July	718	412	84	222	—	—
August	573	334	82	157	—	—
September	567	334	94	139	—	—
October	401	246	51	104	—	—
November	621	307	84	230	—	—
December	818	479	122	217	1	—
Total	7,560	4,375	1,007	2,294	6	—

About one third of those vaccinated do not return for inspection. It may be assumed that one quarter of these were unsuccessfully operated on. Therefore there must have been over 6,000 persons successfully vaccinated during the year.

With regard to the existence of disease other than small-pox it is impossible, owing to the want of data, to furnish a report. The attendance of out-patients at the hospital is so small in proportion to the population that it is impossible to generalize from facts supplied by them. As in most African towns, there appears to be much diarrhœa and dysentery amongst the natives. This is mainly due to the impossibility of making them adopt cleanly habits, but these diseases do not prevail to anything like the same extent as in most other African towns, owing to the water supply here being fairly pure; in fact, in comparison to the water usually drunk by natives, perfectly pure.

Much information as to the fatal diseases prevalent might be obtained if we had a more efficient system of registration of deaths. A fairly good approximation as to the causes of death could be obtained if an inspector, acting under the directions of the medical officer of health, were appointed who could visit the domicile of each deceased person and obtain from friends and others evidence as to the symptoms of the disease which caused death. In cases of doubt the medical officer could hold the inquiries.

From the following return it will be seen that there must have been an omission in reporting births; if not, the population must be fast decreasing in numbers, which is manifestly not the case.

The return furnishes the number of deaths at various ages and the number of births for each month of the year.

Return of Births and Deaths.

Month.	Births.			Deaths.											
				Natives.									European.		
				Males.				Females.							
	Male.	Female.	Total.	1-7.	7-14.	14-21.	Above 21.	1-7.	7-14.	14-21.	Above 21.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
January -	13	11	24	20	1	—	12	20	3	—	18	74	—	—	—
February -	11	14	25	18	—	5	10	13	2	2	18	68	4	—	4
March -	10	11	21	17	—	—	13	11	2	—	17	60	—	—	—
April - -	11	11	22	22	1	—	19	13	3	1	18	77	1	—	1
May - -	18	7	25	27	1	1	21	20	1	1	20	92	1	—	1
June - -	17	12	29	27	1	1	11	21	1	—	16	78	—	—	—
July - -	14	11	25	33	1	1	13	29	—	2	23	102	2	1	3
August -	13	18	31	15	3	1	19	23	1	5	27	94	—	—	—
September -	12	12	24	26	2	—	9	28	1	3	12	81	—	—	—
October -	14	9	23	20	—	—	23	19	2	—	28	92	—	—	—
November -	9	13	22	14	2	2	17	17	5	4	19	80	—	—	—
December -	15	12	27	20	—	3	15	12	2	—	21	73	1	—	1
Total -	157	141	298	259	12	14	182	226	23	18	237	971	9	1	10

Registration cannot be expected to be effective in the absence of any penalty for its enforcement. From the above list it will be seen that there was a large mortality amongst the European population in the town. Ten deaths were registered. In addition two persons who were invalided died at sea. This, out of a resident population of almost 100, is a large per-centage, and gives a fair idea of the amount of sickness. It also points out the urgency for sanitary works, as most of the deaths were due to malaria. The prevention, or at least the mitigation, of this cause of death should be the first subject to which attention is paid. That it is possible to eradicate malaria from its most favoured haunts has been repeatedly proved. To find a remedy it must first be known what are the conditions necessary and most favourable to its development. It is unnecessary, although very desirable, to know the nature of the malarial poison if its production can be prevented or at least curtailed. The two chief conditions necessary are subsoil moisture and a high temperature. It is in the tropics that these conditions predominate. To combat them it is necessary to drain the sub-soil and lower the temperature of the surface. Nature supplies in vegetation a simple means of attaining these ends.

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Pittenkofer has calculated that an oak tree which had 751,592 leaves had from May to October an evaporation equal to 212 inches, whilst the rainfall over an area equal to that covered by the tree was only 25·6 inches, so that the evaporation was $8\frac{1}{3}$ times the rainfall.

The eucalyptus in Algeria has been calculated to evaporate 12 times the rainfall. The water for evaporation is supplied from the subsoil by the roots, which penetrate in all directions. Whilst getting rid of the water from the soil, the evaporation cools the air and the shade afforded by the trees protects the soil from the direct rays of the sun. If we acknowledge the influence of high temperature in producing malaria the great advantage to be gained by sheltering the soil from the direct rays of the sun is evident, when we consider that when the temperature in the shade is 80° the soil exposed to the sun is 150° or more. As a sandy soil has nearly twice the capacity for retaining heat as humus the disadvantage of having large unshaded sandy plains in the neighbourhood is evident.

Such plains are hot-beds of malaria. These plains arise from the destruction of the forests, which is brought about partly for the purpose of supplying fuel but mainly in order to clear the land for cultivation. The virgin soil, never particularly rich, is capable of producing crops for four or five years. The land is then deserted and becomes overgrown with grass, which being periodically burnt prevents the re-growth of the forest. The exposed soil is impoverished by the heavy rainfall carrying away all the organic matter, so that further cultivation is impossible. Thus are farmed about African towns those large savannahs, which are ever growing in extent. This is notably the case about Accra, where the open plains radiates for about 10 or 12 miles from the town.

As a sanitary measure I have to suggest that the extensive planting of quick-growing and shade-producing trees in all open spaces, in the compounds of houses and in all the streets should be considered a matter of great urgency and be proceeded with at once. I recommend that the open plain known as the race course be planted with bamboos and other such hardy, quick-growing trees, and that subsoil drains be constructed to afford a speedy removal of the rainfall.

All the streets should be shaded with trees, which should be planted so as to give the maximum shade with the minimum interference with the circulation of air.

The eucalyptus has been largely used for this purpose, but it does not thrive in Lagos, owing, I think, to the poor sandy soil. One planted in the hospital compound in 1882 is now covered with flower buds but the tree has not gained its reputed dimensions. There are many local trees that would answer our purpose better.

To prevent as much as possible stagnation of water, all the streets should be drained and the surface hardened and made as waterproof as possible so that the greater part of the rain-fall,

which at present is absorbed in the sandy soil, could be carried away.

One great factor in the production of malaria will soon cease to exist. I allude to the swamps present even in the best parts of the town.

During last year the following swamps have been filled up:— That between Kakawa and Customs Streets of 5,000 square yards in extent; that between William and Market Streets of 13,000; that between Market and Martin Streets of 11,000; that between Martin and Davis Streets of 5,500; that between William and Customs Streets of 6,400. This makes in all 40,900 square yards. Besides this many private persons have filled up low-lying places on their property. The sanitary importance of this work cannot be over-estimated. In the same quarter of the town, namely, the Marina, an embankment has been built extending into the lagoon for some distance beyond low-water mark, thus reclaiming valuable space where most needed. Three hundred and thirteen yards in length have now been completed. This has proved a great benefit to the Marina, and it is to be hoped that the greater part of this important thoroughfare will be embanked during the present year. An embankment has also been constructed, extending for 400 yards in length, between the powder magazine and the contagious diseases hospital. This cuts off about 160,000 square yards of swamp from the lagoon. I do not consider this work of any sanitary importance unless the level of the enclosed land could be raised four or five feet. This under present circumstances is impossible. The swamp might be slowly obliterated if all the rubbish collected from the dustbins were conveyed here. This would form a good soil, and the place could ultimately be converted into a garden.

I should therefore recommend that the flood-gate be opened and the sea permitted entrance, as land periodically flooded by the tides is never malarious. If it were possible to keep out the tidal water I am afraid that the work would be far from a benefit.

Extending from the Mohammedan cemetery across the entrance to Oke Lima swamp an embankment has been built. It is proposed, and I have no doubt will be carried out in the course of the year, to apportion the enclosed swamp on grants to those willing to fill up their allotted portions. If this large area could be raised to the level of the embankment it would be a great improvement to the district.

The attention of his Excellency the Governor is also directed towards reclaiming the low foreshore on the inlets of the lagoon at Isalegangan, Idumagho, Alakoro, and Elegbata, and to replace the present low muddy beach by a solid road.

At present these lagoons are the greatest nuisances in the town, and, being situated in the most crowded districts, must have a deleterious effect on the health of the residents.

Another subject to which attention has of late been directed is the unsatisfactory condition of the streets. Many of them, in fact,

LAGOS.

have never been properly constructed, but still consist of the primitive sand. The majority of the streets, moreover, are without drains, so that during the rainy season water stagnates till it is absorbed by the soil.

It would be a great benefit if the streets were hardened and provided with the means of rapidly conducting away the rainfall. In many streets, especially in the native part of the town, drains have been built, but no attention has been paid to the street, the sand, of which the latter is composed, having been washed away, leaving the drains where not destroyed, standing at a considerable elevation.

The provisions, moreover, of the Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance as regards the building of houses have not received much respect. Everybody encroaches as much as he desires on the street, the result being that the native portion of the town is becoming as chaotic as any back village. This is a matter urgently calling for redress.

No design seems to have been followed in laying out the native town. When new streets have been made they have generally been merely extension of those pre-existing. Streets, especially in a town such as this, should be in the direction of the prevailing wind.

There are 37 public wells in the town ; of these 14 are covered and provided with pumps. For an African town there is an excellent supply of water. Water of any purity is unknown to the native resident in the bush, so that that of Lagos which might not satisfy the fastidious taste of an English sanitarian is appreciated by the native, on whom it appears to have no deleterious effect. I should recommend, in order to further improve the quality of the water, that the wells should be made impervious to surface soakage and should be sunk as deep as possible so that all the water obtaining admittance should be filtered through a deep stratum of sand, the deeper strata being much cleaner than those nearer the surface.

A simple and effective well could be constructed of large earthenware drain pipes securely cemented together. The lower segments could with advantage have perforations. Every well, moreover, should be covered and provided with a pump so as to exclude dust and protect the water from any wilful pollution.

A question which does not appear to have received the consideration merited by its importance is the possibility of the admittance of the malarial poison to the human body by means of drinking water. If such be the case, and its probability is great, I think that sufficient attention is not given by Europeans to this question. Much of the water drunk is taken from shallow wells, which are not assured against surface soakage. As the malarial poison is supposed, with reason, to be developed in the soil and in the upper layers of the soil, such wells should be avoided. Tanks should be universally adopted, not underground masonry tanks, but exposed and of iron. When the large masonry tanks were sunk in Accra I mentioned the possibility of water becoming contaminated

when in such proximity to a malarious soil. It would be a matter of interest to know if the great increase of malignant form of fever which has occurred of late in Accra can in any way be traced to this source. In considering this question the tanks of the old forts used from time immemorial must be distinguished from those recently built. The former are imbedded in the solid masonry and not in soil saturated with the malarial poison. All water from whatever source obtained should be boiled previous to filtration.

The latrine accommodation is very inadequate, there being at present 10 latrines for the use of the town. That more latrines have not been constructed is due to the proposal of the adoption of iron instead of wood, as the material of construction. A model iron latrine is now being erected, and if found suitable, as it no doubt will be, others will be immediately erected. All these latrines are so constructed as to project well into the current of the lagoon and are approached by a bridge, so that they are in no way a nuisance to the neighbourhood. They are very cleanly, simple, effective, and answer their purpose admirably.

This is very satisfactory for those who live within a short distance of the lagoon, but the residents in the centre of the town have no such conveniences. I would therefore recommend that a few closets should be erected, each to be furnished with two metal tanks so constructed as to be easily transferred to a truck for removal. One tank would be removed at a time so as not to inconvenience the public. All the labour in connexion with removal, cleansing, &c., could be furnished by the prison.

The existence of cesspools still continues, owing partly to the difficulty of detecting them, but mainly to the fact that the provisions of the Towns, Police, and Public Health Ordinance are not sufficiently stringent. Instead of the offender being severely punished, he merely receives an order to abate the nuisance, and it is only on the production of evidence that the nuisance is likely to recur, evidence which it is almost impossible to obtain, that the court may impose a fine not exceeding 20*s*.

As all the water is supplied from wells, which are very liable to contamination from the porous nature of the soil, I think that legislation should provide a penalty which would once for all extinguish this filthy practice.

The dustbins consist of wooden boxes raised on supports. These are emptied daily by convicts and scavengers. The present system is primitive and causes much waste of labour. I recommend that all the dustbins should be constructed so as to be transferable to trucks so that the bin and its contents could be carted bodily away. These trucks ought to be made suitable to the roads by having extra broad wheels and should be drawn by oxen. The same trucks could be used for the removal of the latrine tanks if such a system as I suggested were adopted. The swamp near the powder magazine would furnish a receptacle for all the rubbish that could be collected for the next three or four years. When the surface had been raised to the desired level a layer of humus would conceal all objectionable matter, and prevent

LAGOS.

the smell from becoming a nuisance. The place could then be planted.

The meat market, the cleanliness of which is in the care of the Sanitary Department, admits of much improvement. It is at present divided into 24 stalls, each of which is surrounded by a wooden fence of about 7 feet in height. The tables are placed against the fences so that the latter are constantly splashed with blood, rendering it impossible to keep the place clean. I propose that the whole of these railings be removed and that two longitudinal tables covered with zinc extend for the whole length of the market. Above the tables should be two iron rods extending from one end to the other at a sufficient distance apart to admit of the meat being suspended therefrom. The stalls could be marked off by a simple iron rod and each could be provided with a chopping block.

The flooring should be of cement.

The present slaughter-house is inconvenient, but will soon be replaced by one of iron.

The new fish market is now ready for occupation. A new sanitarium has been erected on the beach. This building provides accommodation for four persons.

Additional accommodation has also been provided at the cemetery.

Attached is a summary of the meteorological observations for the year.*

(Signed) J. W. ROWLAND,
Colonial Surgeon,
Lagos.

* Not printed.

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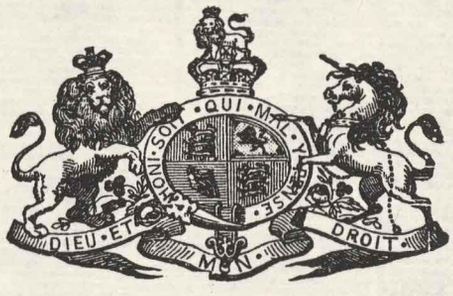
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 40.

LAGOS.

REPORTS ON THE RESOURCES AND CONDITION OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249.-33.]

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No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	„	2
3	Gambia	„	1
4	Victoria	„	2½
5	New Zealand	„	5
6	Tobago	1887	1
7	Gibraltar	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern District).	—	1
9	Heligoland	1887	1
10	Natal	„	1
11	Straits Settlements	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turk's Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland	1886	½
15	Grenada	1887	1½
16	Trinidad	„	1½
17	Bermuda	„	1
18	St. Helena	„	½
19	Barbados	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 1887)	„	1
21	Bahamas	„	½
22	Labuan	„	½
23	Malta	„	1½
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	„	1
27	Leeward Islands	„	3½
28	British Guiana	„	2
29	Western Australia	„	½
30	Falkland Islands	„	1
31	Basutoland	„	1½
32	St. Lucia	„	1½
33	Hong Kong	„	1½
34	Fiji	„	3
35	British Honduras	„	1
36	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	„	2
37	Ceylon	„	1½
38	British New Guinea	„	6½
39	British Guiana	1884 and 1885	3

No. 40.

LAGOS.

No. 1.

GOVERNOR MOLONEY to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Lagos,
July 12, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a report by Mr. Alvan Millson on the resources of the Western District, which I am confident will be read with interest by your Lordship.

2. The accompanying reply, which I directed the Colonial Secretary to send in acknowledgment, touches upon the chief points in his report.

3. I may pointedly call attention to the petition of the Katanuans, who get their drink mainly from Porto Novo, to have the spirit licensing law of the Colony applied to their territory. Their offer in 1886 of cession of their sovereign rights was declined.

4. So far the operation of the Spirit Licensing Ordinance, No. 7 of 1875, has been confined to what must be held as the Colony, viz., to the town and island of Lagos, the town of Badagry, Palma Arthur, and Leckie, the island of Iddo, and the district of Ebute Metta represented by and embraced within one mile radius from the landing-place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure No. 1.

Mr. MILLSON to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Badagry, June 25, 1888.

SIR,

IN accordance with verbal instructions received from His Excellency the Governor, I have the honour to forward herewith short notes on the resources of the Western District of this Colony.

Lagos.

2. I regret that my short period of residence should have made it impossible for me to show more than a superficial knowledge of the questions and facts that I have been able to deal with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Alvan Millson,
District Commissioner,
Western District.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary,
Lagos.

Notes on the Resources of the Western District of the Colony of Lagos.

People of District.

From the mixed nature of the population of the Western District it would appear that it has been recruited for many years past by a constant influx of refugees from the surrounding tribes. Roughly speaking the people may be divided into three nationalities, or rather divisions, viz. :—Popos, Yorubas, and Houssas.

Popos.

The Popos are chiefly engaged in fishing, forestry, and farming. They are mainly centred in the Frah Kingdom, but form a large per-centage of the population throughout the lagoon-side towns, as far east as Ajido. They are averse to steady occupation of any sort, and when brought before the Court for larceny, which frequently happens, plead guilty with a graceful ingenuousness which can only spring from a complete familiarity with this somewhat speculative industry.

Yoruba.

The Yorubas are, with few exceptions, actively engaged in farming, forestry, and trading. They are capable of considerable industry, and are, without doubt, the most enterprising people in the district.

Houssas.

The Houssas are industrious farmers and palm-nut gatherers, and promise to improve the district to a considerable extent.

Religions.

Speaking generally, the Mohammedans may be said to be more enterprising and industrious than the Fetish worshippers. Of the Christians it is difficult to speak with any certainty, as their number is small, and they are much influenced by their surroundings, but on the whole they may be said to be a fairly thriving community.

Occupations.

In dealing with the various occupations of the people it is evident from the above considerations that it is difficult to form a general estimate of their present prosperity or possibility of future development. In two respects only are all the people of the district alike; in an intense, and obtuse conservation, so long as they are left to their own devices, and in a keen spirit of petty trading. "To do your neighbour as you hope to avoid being done by him," is the sole article of their code of morality. To appeal to any higher motive than this is to waste your time; and for this reason it becomes evident that commerce must decline as soon as they are left without restraint, and will not advance unless urged on by European influence. I hope to show in these notes more than one example of the truth of this statement.

The people as a whole may be said to be engaged in fishing, farming, forestry, trading, and the smaller handicrafts. I shall endeavour to state accurately the present condition and future prospects of each of these occupations.

Fishing.

Fishing is at present carried on entirely in the lagoons by traps, lines, cast nets, hand nets, fences, seines, and harpoons.

There is a certain amount of trade in smoked fish carried on throughout the district, but as a rule each household consumes the fish caught by its several members, and it is generally the idler portion of the community who are engaged in this occupation. It is probable that the yield would be much increased by the extended use of lines and seines. It is a remarkable instance of the lack of enterprise shown in this industry, that throughout the district there is no attempt made to build or use suitable surf canoes, or to utilize the sea fisheries in any way. Indeed, so far as I can see the fisheries of the Western District show no signs of having made progress in the past or being likely to develop in the future.

Farming.

In the case of farming the outlook is more cheerful, and it seems probable that a marked advance will be made in this industry during the next few years. The whole of the strip of land which lies between the Victoria lagoon and the sea is, with the exception of a few swamps, most excellent cassada and cocoanut land, as far as the limits of the annual inundations of the Lagos and Denham Waters. It is encouraging to notice the progress that is being made in its cultivation, both under the fostering care of the Roman Catholic Mission at St. Joseph, Topo, and by the inhabitants of Badagry, Appa, and Gbogbele, who have been at length roused to a sense of the importance of this industry. In addition to the large cocoanut plantation of the Roman Catholic Mission, on whose

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land upwards of 10,000 young trees are flourishing amid extensive fields of cassada, there has been a marked increase in the number of Badagrians who have taken to these cultivations on the land opposite Badagry and certain of the inhabitants of Ajido, perhaps the most idle and degraded town in the district, have, under the protection of the Fathers, commenced cassada planting nearly opposite their town. It is noticeable that the Popos who have hitherto been judged incapable of steady application to farming have in these instances, and in one still more striking, deserted their old idle habits, and are now competing for permission to cultivate the land.

In the Frah Kingdom generally, but more especially in the neighbourhood of the towns of Katanu and Tori Agonsa, a very marked increase of activity in this direction is to be noted, which is due entirely to the zealous efforts of Mr. F. Colley Green, the officer in charge at Katanu. Until last year the people of the Frah Kingdom have been, I believe, chiefly remarkable for neglecting to cultivate their land. Owing to Mr. Green's efforts however, large plantations of corn and other crops have this year been made and gathered on the great expanse of land bordering the Denham Waters and subject to their annual inundations. What was, when I first saw it on the 11th of March last, a wilderness of rushes and coarse grass, has been, to the extent of over four square miles, turned into an almost continuous succession of corn fields; and the general extent of the farming industry in that neighbourhood has been greatly increased. People who were half starving last year, and dependent on a scanty trade in smoked fish to supply their actual necessities, are this year supplying large quantities of corn and farina to the markets of Porto Novo and the towns on the Denham Waters. I need not say that the fishing industry has for the time suffered considerably by this change. One man on the occasion of my last visit to Katanu told me that he had that day sold to traders from Porto Novo corn to the value of 1*l.* 10*s.*, and that if he possessed ten times the quantity he had planted he could have sold it all at Porto Novo. Corn was then selling at 1*s.* 3*d.* a measure, or about 6*s.* 3*d.* a bushel, owing to the great scarcity of provisions in Porto Novo. On the 12th of May last Mr. Green reported to me as follows:—"At Ketonu "alone there are about 2 miles long and 1½ miles broad of corn "plantation; at Agonsagbo there is about a mile long and ¾ of a mile "broad of corn plantation; at Tori Agonsa and Poji, along the "creek sides, there are about 3½ miles in length and from ½ to ¾ "miles broad of corn; there is also about ½ mile square of sweet "potatoes, all new crops. A large quantity of cassada also is "planted along the beach from Ekpeh, Poji, Seimi, and Jevah, on "to Karake. The Frah Kingdom bids fair to become a future "popular provision market . . . . . and up to this date "new lands are being occupied and cultivated with corn, sweet "potatoes, cassada, and beans."

I regret extremely to say that increased prosperity has only served to add to the drunken habits of the people, and that

enormous quantities of vile spirits are imported from Porto Novo into Katanu in exchange for corn and cassada. The town is falling rapidly into a ruinous state of disrepair; every fourth or fifth house is a rum shop; the so-called "palm wine sheds" are filled every evening with drunken men and women, and were the people not abjectly cowed by fear of incurring the displeasure of this Government, and ceasing to retain its protection, there is no doubt that frequent and violent crimes would be committed. Anything more degrading than the condition into which these people have sunk cannot well be imagined. Strong measures are being taken by such of the Chiefs as are not given up to the same hopeless vice, and I need not say that they are both seconded and urged on by the officers of the Government. Indeed, the evils of this traffic have become so apparent to the people themselves that in a petition which I had the honour of forwarding for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor of this Colony the Chiefs and elders prayed for the assistance of the Government in putting an end to the untaxed or licensed sale of liquor, presumably by adopting for Katanu the licensing law at present in force in certain portions of the Colony.

Were this crying evil checked in the towns of the Frah Kingdom I am convinced that these inexhaustibly fertile flood-lands would produce with ease sufficient corn to supply the whole of the local wants, and that they would moreover become a considerable source of food supply for Lagos and the Colony at large, an important consideration at the present moment, when we are uncertain of the continuance of our supplies from at least one of our main sources in the past. I am informed that the people intend to double their exertions in this and the coming year, so as to, presumably, enjoy a proportionately increased capacity for rum drinking.

What appears to me to be most remarkable in these circumstances is the comparative ease with which a population of idle fishermen, whose reputation for drunkenness and thieving has hitherto been their sole claim for distinction, has, by the praiseworthy endeavours of Mr. Green, been induced to take up an occupation so foreign to its habits, and involving so much mutual trust and confidence, as the cultivation of lands lying at a distance from the towns he speaks [of]. It is of no small curiosity also that a people so totally ignorant of planting as not to be aware of the simple methods of "doubling" and "housing" the crop should have given so much labour for a result of which they were uncertain.

During the past few months I can even venture to assert that farming has been pursued with redoubled activity throughout the whole district, and that, even in such less attractive cultivations as that of cocoanuts, a marked awakening has resulted from the efforts of my predecessors to induce the people to adopt a more enterprising method of work. All the seed nuts at present planted in the Government Nursery at Badagry have been already bespoken, though they will not be ready for transplanting until

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next year, and all these which I have been able to spare have been already transplanted by inhabitants of Badagry. For each young plant four good seed nuts are received and planted in the nursery, to be again exchanged when ready for transplanting. In this matter I have especially to thank the intelligent influence and example of the Rev. D. Coker, the representative of the Church Missionary Society in Badagry.

I may mention also that the firm of Messrs. Hutton and Osborne have written to New York with a view to ascertaining the feasibility of shipping a trial cargo of cocoanuts as ballast stowage in the next sailing vessel returning from Lagos to that port, and that on receipt of a favourable reply a shipment of nuts obtained in this district (the present price being from 1*l.* 5*s.* to 1*l.* 10*s.* per thousand) will be made at an early date.

The land behind Badagry has numerous small villages scattered over it from Ragbo to Ilegbo, and, as most of them are inhabited by Yorubas with an admixture of Popos, they have made considerable progress in corn planting for the Addo, Badagry, and Porto Novo markets. I am informed that it is their intention also to increase their plantations to a considerable extent.

Speaking generally, I think that with due encouragement and protection the Western District should become a considerable source of food supply to the Colony and surrounding States; and I am convinced that the flood-lands bordering on the Denham Waters and in other parts of the district possess a soil of inexhaustible fertility from which two crops can be annually drawn without intermission so long as the lands continue to be inundated by the lagoons. What has hitherto been looked upon as waste and useless land has since last year given excellent crops of maize, cassada, sweet potatoes, and beans. Cassada can be grown throughout the district, and other remunerative crops might readily be introduced. In a few years from now the beach should be fringed with thriving cocoanut groves in place of the scanty scrub which lines the shore at present. With an export trade in cocoanuts and a local trade in farm produce the Western District may hope eventually to become once more of considerable commercial importance.

Forestry.

In dealing with the forestry of the district, I may say that the palm-nut industry throughout the district occupies all the energies of the natives in this direction, as, with the exception of the efforts of a few gangs of Krooboys who are engaged as sawyers, the natural resources of the country are left almost entirely unexploited. The quality of the oil and kernels produced is identical with that of Porto Novian produce, and the quantity exported will be shown soon to be very considerable. This staple industry offers few openings for improvement at present, as every effort is used by the natives to develop it to the utmost in their power.

In one important respect the forestry of the district is as yet quiet undeveloped. The lagoon banks for many miles are lined on either hand by a swamp fig called the "boucau," which I have found to yield india-rubber quite equal to that produced by the scarcer "Abba" trees, if prepared by the simple method described in some notes on the subject which were published in the "Government Gazette" of this Colony for the month of April last. An enterprising firm of Lagos merchants who have lately established a branch of their business in Badagry are especially devoting themselves to this industry, and hope to make shipments of rubber to England by the end of this year. I see no limits to the possible development of this industry, one of the most remunerative known, and am confident that their zeal in this direction will be fully rewarded. To this development I am convinced that West Africa will owe much, and it is my belief that the present depression caused by the low state of the oil and kernel trade will be much relieved by extended efforts in this direction.

A more uncertain prospect of future development of natural resources, but still worthy of consideration, is held out by the fibres and timbers of the district. In the year 1887 I had several interviews with a large paper manufacturer, Mr. J. S. Clarke, of Potter Buildings, New York, who was then considering proposals made to him by certain persons on the Rio Magdalena in South America, who promised to supply him with compressed bales of a fibre plant called "Camalote." In appearance and habits the "Camalote" of Central and South America is not unlike the "grass islands" which line our lagoons and block up our rivers and channels. Mr. Clarke had tested the samples forwarded to him and was ready to engage in the business, but was deterred by my mentioning the fact that the prevailing north-easterly trades of the Gulf of Mexico would seriously increase his shipping expenses, if, as he proposed, he chartered sailing vessels for the purpose. Should our "grass islands" prove equally valuable as fibre plants for paper making I see no reason why the sailing vessels which come to this coast from New York should not take back ballast cargoes of this article, as at present sailing vessels from South America have, I believe, to run across almost to the African coast in order to be able to make New York. I have indeed known of one case when a sailing vessel coming from Demerara made Belize in British Honduras after being 32 days at sea, and I believe that it is considered a longer voyage from the Magdalena to New York.

Trading.

Trading, being the African's especial delight, must always be taken as the true criterion of the prosperity of an African district, and luckily we have a fairly accurate means of estimating its progress by watching the development or decay of the markets and trade centres. With regard to the numerous smaller markets of this district, I regret to say that I am unable to give any

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statistics which would serve to show either progress or the reverse. The more important of them are seven in number, namely: Woro, Togga, Mowo, Kogga, Ragbo, Erè or Mosofejo, and Appa; and serve as feeders for the larger commercial centres of Porto Novo, Badagry, and Lagos. Fortunately, it is possible to give accurate figures representing the past and present condition of the export trade of Badagry so far as oil and kernels are concerned, and there is no doubt that the increase or decrease of trade in these staple articles of commerce is a fair measure of the general commercial condition of the country. The details I am able to give are somewhat startling, and at first sight inexplicable. Until the latter half of the year 1887 trade in Badagry seems to have been almost dead. The total exports of oil and kernels in the month of April of that year amounted to no more than 54*l.* 6*s.*, a small total for a population of nearly 5,000 souls. In August of that year the total export of the same articles was valued at 30*l* 4*s.*; in September at 68*l.* 3*s.*; in October at 395*l.* 10*s.*; in November at 485*l.* 12*s.*; in December at 900*l.* 3*s.*; while in May of this year the shipments reached a total value of no less than 1,878*l.* 16*s.*, representing a probable total monthly trade of 5,000*l.*

This remarkable development of commerce is attributable only to the establishment of the Badagry market, a step which owed its success to the influence of the present Governor of the Colony, and the great activity of my predecessors Dr. Rowland and Mr. Tarbet.

Encouraged by this great increase in business a substantial firm of Lagos merchants have established a branch house with an English manager in the town, and I have hopes that the coming year may see a still greater development of trade. I am unable, of course, to give details of Messrs. Hutton and Osborne's business, but judging from the considerable shipments of produce already made by them, I have every confidence that their energetic venture will prove a complete success.

There are reasons for believing that the establishment of one or two commercial houses of credit and capital in Badagry will bring to its proper outlet much of the produce that is now diverted through other channels, to the injury of the Colony.

It is no small advantage to a business house to be able to buy large quantities of kernels direct from the producers at reasonable prices and uninjured by soaking. I am able to say that the business of the above-mentioned establishment is nearly altogether directly with the producers, and is almost entirely for cash, much of which is spent on produce in the Badagry market immediately after it is received, so that, instead of serving as a discouraging influence upon the market, it will have the reverse effect.

The great success of the Badagry market is attributable to a few simple causes. Firstly, to the fact that a marked need for some such outlet for produce had for many years existed, but was checked by the evil reputation of the people of the town; secondly, to the fostering care of the Government and its strict enforcement of the law; and thirdly, to the adoption from the first of cash

sales and the consistent discouragement of credit and barter, alike by the frequenters of the market and the Government.

During the last eight markets there have been only two convictions for larceny of market produce, and I have not yet had a claim before the court or otherwise for a market debt. It is probable that so long as these lines are adhered to there will be no decrease in the commercial prosperity of the town.

The market place is very extensive, is fitted with substantial sheds, and is frequented by numbers of people, estimated to be not less than 5,000 every market day, who bring from all sides every variety of native produce.

The country people bring their produce on foot from all the surrounding villages, and in canoes from the lagoon and river side towns, as far as Addo, Porto Novo, Whemi, and Agbomey Karafi, the capital of Dahomey. It is to be hoped that the active measures which are being taken under the orders of His Excellency the Governor for the improvement of the interior and lagoon side roads will largely increase the sphere of this market and the consequent prosperity of the district.

It is no exaggeration to say that a town which has in eight months time increased its monthly export of staple produce from thirty to eighteen hundred and seventy-eight pounds sterling may be said to have every prospect of further commercial development, and there is little doubt that on the success of this central town depends the prosperity of the whole district.

Smaller Handicrafts.

With regard to the smaller handicrafts it is difficult to speak with certainty, but it is clear that increased facilities for sale must have influenced their growth. Large quantities of earthenware, mats, bags, hats, country cloths, native indigo, alkali, spices, and smaller articles of produce and manufacture are brought to the market every week, and the whole surface of the ground is covered with mats and baskets used for their display.

Conclusions tentative for the present.

It will be more easy in a few months from now to draw general conclusions from the facts that have been stated in these notes; but I think it is not premature to say that the district has made much and rapid progress in its farming and trading industries during the past eight months, and that a careful observance of the causes which have brought about this change will ensure a similar development of its forest resources, and a still further growth of prosperity in all branches of its commerce.

(Signed) ALVAN MILLSON,
Commissioner, Western District.

Badagry, June 26, 1888.

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Enclosure 2.

COLONIAL SECRETARY to DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Badagry.

Colonial Secretariat, Lagos,
July 12, 1888.

SIR,

I AM desired by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, and to thank you for so promptly meeting his wishes.

His Excellency has read with much interest indeed your report on the resources of the Western District, which he considers reflects considerable credit on you.

The Governor appreciates your well-directed efforts, and the assistance you get in the matter from Mr. Green, in promoting the food supply of this Colony by every encouragement in the direction of the extension of the agricultural industry of your district.

The petition referred to for the application to the Katanu Kingdom of the spirit licensing law is under the consideration of this Government; you will remember, of course, that Ordinance No. 7 of 1875 in its operation has been so far made to apply only "to the town and island of Lagos, the towns of Badagry, Palma "Arthur, and Leckie, the island of Iddo, and the district of "Ebute Metta, such district being taken to mean all places "within a radius of one mile from the landing-place at Ebute "Metta."

To hear of the continued progress of Badagry is indeed gratifying to the Governor; is additional proof of a want supplied; and the establishment now at Badagry of a European branch-house, with an English manager, testifies to its importance as a commercial centre.

In March last the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies was pleased to express his satisfaction at the restored commercial prosperity of Badagry, and the Governor feels sure His Lordship will read with interest your report now acknowledged, a copy of which it is his intention to send on to the Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE DENTON,
Colonial Secretary.

Alvan Millson, Esq.,
Commissioner of the Western District,
Badagry.

No. 2.

LORD KNUTSFORD to GOVERNOR MOLONEY.

SIR, Downing Street, October 27, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of 12th July, forwarding a report by Mr. Alvan Millson on the resources of the Western District of the Protectorate of Lagos.

I have perused this report, which reflects much credit upon Mr. Millson, with interest and satisfaction, and I have to express my appreciation of the success which has attended his efforts, and those of Mr. Green, to promote the increase of cultivation in the Frah Kingdom.

With reference to paragraphs 3 and 4 of your Despatch, I have to request that you will forward to me the petition of the Katanuans, to which you allude, that a check may be put upon the sale of liquor in their territory, with a special report upon it.

You should consult the Queen's Advocate as to whether there is any valid objection to the operation of the licensing law being extended to Katanu, with the consent of the inhabitants, although the territory is only under British protection and not a part of the Colony proper.

If this cannot be done, some other means may, perhaps, be devised of checking the unrestricted sale of liquor.

The matter is one of considerable importance, in view of what I gather to be the strongly expressed wish of the Chiefs and elders and the evils of the present state of things so graphically described by Mr. Millson, and some action with respect to it should be taken with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KNUTSFORD.

Governor Moloney.

No. 3.

GOVERNOR MOLONEY to LORD KNUTSFORD.

EXTRACT. Government House, Lagos,
October 19, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to report that in July last I paid a visit of inspection to the Western, or Palm Oil, District of this Colony, leaving Lagos on the 24th and returning on the 30th idem.

The result of my inspection has been conveyed to the Commissioner of the District, and I venture to trouble your Lordship

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with a summary of the remarks communicated to him under the following headings:—

District and Political.

I found the same order and quietness existing throughout the district, both inland and lagoon, that I noticed upon the occasion of my previous visit in November last. The condition of the district generally was satisfactory, and I was pleased to be able to convey to Mr. Millson my appreciation of his energy, of the good influence he had brought to bear upon the people, and of the very noticeable good work he had done for them since his appointment.

I visited the towns of Gbogbele, Appa, Badagry, Pobita, Tafi, and Maba, situate on the Victoria lagoon, Oshogbo, also Beshe. In connexion with the towns on the beach strip, and in view of the fact that the beach forms the high, and indeed a very good, road for travellers from village to village, I propose, to the western limit of the jurisdiction, to erect brick pillars on the beach to indicate to those passing the roads from the beach to the principal villages; and have instructed the Commissioner to report which villages would, in his opinion, most benefit from such a system, and also what would be the probable cost, the material being supplied from Lagos, of erecting pillars 2 feet square and 4 feet high for the purpose. At present the natives use bamboos surmounted by rags as finger posts. In return the villagers expressed their gratitude and willingness to widen the connecting roads between the lagoon and the sea to the extent of 12 feet, to straighten and regularly clear them.

I impressed upon the Commissioner the importance of promoting the establishment and extension of Houssa villages in the district. The Houssas at present settled in the districts of the Colony are industrious farmers, a class much needed, loyal to this Government, and from whom recruits for the constabulary and volunteers are enrolled.

Constabulary.

The constabulary presented a soldier-like and clean appearance. The force at head-quarters is at present going through a course of musketry, and later the instructor is to go to the districts to put the detachments through without having to relieve them.

Prison.

Noticing that such was not done, I impressed upon the Commissioner the necessity of visiting the prison at least once a day. The prison was clean, and the general management good. I instructed the Commissioner that whenever it was necessary to confine several prisoners in association, an extra guard would answer all the purposes of shackles in preventing escape, and be the more humane method of achieving the result, and I directed that shackles or

chains were only to be used in cases of violence or attempt to escape. I further directed that the use of irons was in no case during transport to Lagos for trial to be resorted to, and that while being escorted to or from the means of transport handcuffs only must be utilised.

Books.

I found the books of the district well and neatly kept.

Survey on Chest.

A surprise survey resulted in the money being found correct. As the practice of keeping private money in the public chest and of mixing personal and Government money existed, I had a Departmental Instruction drawn up and published, by which the practice is forbidden.

Schools.

I visited the school and was accompanied there by the Chiefs of Badagry, upon whom I impressed the importance of using their influence in getting the children sent to school regularly, and in greater numbers. This was the first occasion upon which any of the Chiefs had visited the school, and I hope that it will have a good effect. I was pleased to find that the Commissioner showed a general interest in the school, visited it from time to time, and afforded it the encouragement which his official position commands.

Market and Commercial Interest.

The progress of and care extended by the Commissioner to the markets of his district, represented by Ragbo, Woro, and Badagry, I noticed with pleasure. Under cover of my Despatch of the 12th July last,* I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a report of Mr. Millson on the resources of the Western District, which dwelt among other things on the commercial importance extended thereto by the establishment of the Badagry market. The development of commerce has been remarkable and its value can be gauged from the following extract from Mr. Millson's report:—

"Until the latter half of the year 1887 trade in Badagry seems to have been almost dead. The total exports of oil and kernels in the month of April of that year amounted to no more than 54*l.* 6*s.*, a small total for a population of nearly 5,000 souls. In August of that year the total export of same articles was valued at 30*l.* 4*s.*; in September at 68*l.* 3*s.*; in October at 395*l.* 10*s.*; in November at 485*l.* 12*s.*; in December at 900*l.* 3*s.*; while in May of this year the shipments reached a total value of no less than 1,878*l.* 16*s.*, representing a probable total monthly trade of 5,000*l.*"

The practical and enthusiastic efforts of Mr. Millson in the direction of promoting a rubber trade for the district, and in giving,

* No. 1.

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personally, lessons as to its manufacture from the "Abba" juice, deserve hearty and appreciative approval. Interest in the "Abba" industry has assumed in Brass river a practical and sensible form. The Vice-President of the Governing Council asked in August last to have sent there a native who knew the tree and understood the process of manufacture; the services of such a person, who indeed was trained by Mr. Millson, have been secured by the Commissioner, who, your Lordship will remember, is the author of the notes on the preparation of the juice of the "Abba" tree.

Cocoanut planting.

The total seed planting at the close of the June quarter came to 5,273.

The Commissioner has since been authorised to bring up with all despatch by purchase the number to 11,000, so as to have 10,000 plants ready to be put in their permanent places at the beginning of the rainy season 1889. This number allows of 10 per cent. for failures, and ought to ensure, at the time specified, 10,000 healthy seedlings. Such a plantation, when bearing, should be worth to the Government 2,000*l.* per annum for many years.

I directed also the Commissioner to proclaim, as reserved for the Government cocoanut plantation, a strip of land in front of Badagry along the sea of 1,800 yards, and of a depth of 400 yards, being about 150 acres.

As regards this industry my special thanks are due to the Commissioner for his characteristic and exceptional zeal, interest, and activity, who has already marked out the site for the Government plantation and has brought up seed planting to 13,023.

Volunteers.

Under Ordinance No. 2 of 1884, 62 Houssa volunteers within the Western District subscribed to the oath required by law during my visit. The general question of the organisation and efficiency of the volunteer force is under my consideration and will be duly reported on.

The Commissioner has been directed to continue to enrol volunteers, confining recruits to Houssas; printed nominal rolls, and a counterfoiled certificate book of the form as required by law have been supplied to him. Original rolls are to be, from time to time, returned to head-quarters, the Commissioner retaining a copy of the nominal roll, and the certificate book.

Roads.

Up to the end of September quarter 94½ miles of new road have been made and 61 miles of old road cleaned and maintained. The main road along the lagoon from Badagry to Okogbo has been cleaned to a width of 12 feet. A road about a mile long from the landing place opposite to Badagry to the sea-beach has

been made by prison labour to a breadth of 32 feet; this service has been effected in connexion with the future cocoanut plantation of the Government, referred to under heading "cocoanut planting." The remaining roads, the Commissioner reports, have been made or cleaned to widths varying from 6 to 12 feet, except where such widening would involve the destruction of palm trees.

General Remarks.

Local tradition has it that the first Popo immigrants headed by their King Agbangra, of Hungi, a town that existed to the westward of Whydah, but since destroyed by Dahomians, got to Appa, the King of which gave to them, as a place of settlement, a farm of one of his slaves, named Bada, on the strip of land between the lagoon and sea and in front of the present Badagry. On this site they settled, calling it Bada's *gri* or farm, hence the name Badagry. They were later followed up viâ Cootenoo, which is on the same land strip, by Dahomians, and, deserting in consequence the original Badagry, crossed the lagoon and established the present town.

The capital of the district is Badagry, with a population of 2,500 to 3,000; it is approached by lagoon, and is distant from Lagos 45 miles.

The original coast line in these parts must have been the northern bank of the inner line of inland waters, commonly called lagoons.

The strips of land that now intervene between the sea and mainland, and the intermediate deltas here and there, have been formed by the continuous action of the surf, current, and prevailing wind, upon the débris brought down by the different intersecting rivers. The Western District is a net-work of such lagoons, and as regards the intersecting rivers that have affected and still affect it, they are the Itele, the Addo, the Giddy, and the Whemi or Ophara.

The jurisdiction of the Commissioner of the Badagry or Western District which has extended inland to, and inclusive of Koga, embraces the kingdoms of Katanu, Appa, the territory ceded in 1863 by the Chiefs of Badagry, and an inlying strip, the eastern boundary of which may be described as the longitude of the village of Okogbo.

His general powers, civil and criminal, are:—

Civil.

1. The determination of personal suits where debt or damage does not exceed 25*l.*

2. Suits between landlord and tenant for possession of land or houses, claimed under lease, where annual value or rent does not exceed 25*l.*

3. Grants of injunctions or orders (subject to Order XV. of the 2nd schedule to the Supreme Court Ordinance No. 4 of 1876) to stay waste or alienation, or for the detention and preservation of any property the subject of any suit, or to restrain breaches of contract or torts.

4. By consent of all the parties, to hear and determine actions of the above description where the claim is for not more than 50*l.*

Criminal.

1. Any offence or act punishable, or in respect of which any penalty may be recovered or order made for the payment of money according to law upon summary conviction.

Any offence not being felony, or being larceny, embezzlement, or receiving stolen property appearing to be of such a nature that if proved would be adequately punished with:—

1. Imprisonment for not more than three months with or without hard labour; or
2. Imprisonment for not more than 42 days, and fine not exceeding 20*l.*, enforced by distress, or by imprisonment for not more than 42 days, either with or without hard labour; or
3. Fine not exceeding 25*l.*, enforced by distress, or by imprisonment with or without hard labour, for not more than three months.

The aborigines of Katanu, Appa, and Badagry were Yoruba-speaking people who emigrated from their country, generally embraced within the bend of the lower Niger, after it had been overrun from the north by the Fulahs and Gambaris or Houssas; they have been supplanted by, or almost altogether absorbed among the tribes of Ewe-speaking people, known and commonly referred to in English as Popos and Whemians, but known among themselves and Yorubas as Egun, who have steadily for years migrated, and still migrate, in numbers eastward to escape the atrocities, mainly represented by human sacrifices and slavery, of their fellow countrymen ordinarily known as Porto Novians and Dahomians.

The population of the district was returned in 1886 as hereunder given:—

Badagry portion - - - -	12,068
*Frah or Katanu kingdom - -	8,355
Appa kingdom - - - -	3,255

The industries of the district are the manufacture of palm oil from the husks of the ripe fruit of the *elais guineensis*, the preparation for the market of the kernel of the same fruit, the cultivation of Indian corn, of leguminous plants of different sorts and sizes, of the sweet potato, of cassava which affords the preparation known as "gari," an important staple of food in these parts, of yams, and sugar-cane to a small extent. Fish is caught in large quantities, especially by the Katanuans, and sun-dried or smoked for sale; in either form it represents a considerable coast and inland industry. I may remark that fresh fish is not appreciated by the Yoruba; he prefers it in the form which I have just described.

The lagoon, as one approaches Badagry from Lagos, presents on both banks for some 20 miles a monotonous scene fringed, as is usual in such latitudes when the water is salt or brackish, with mangrove, which yields largely the firewood in common use.

---

* Katanuans are called Frahs or fishermen.

As regards the sea-strips of land, the line of mangrove gives way, as one nears the sea, to the dwarf trees of the *Chrysobalanus Icaco* or cocoa-plum, in their perfection, now covered as they are with a blue plum-like fruit of the size of a small peach, reminding me of the Black Hambro grape; they are again succeeded by ground creepers indifferent to salt-spray, among which runs handsomely a large leafed leguminous plant with a most beautiful purple-red flower of considerable size for a pea.

From the opening into the Igbessa waters westward nothing but the graceful oil palm presents itself for miles, and the busy improvised villages of the manufacturers who resort there for the seasons. Here one is much struck with the alluvial deposits topped with rich black vegetable mould, in which anything might be grown.

I must not omit to mention the *borassus æthiopium*, or fan-palm as it is generally called: the ronier or "run" of the Gambia. This tree grows abundantly in the Western District, and it has indeed surprised me to find that it has not been utilised here as piles for wharves, as it is commonly at the Gambia.

Thirdly, there is the *raphia vinifera*, or bamboo palm, in which the district abounds. The leaf for thatch and the poles, or rather mid-rib of the leaf, used for varied purposes, present extensive and important industries. Such poles in rafts made up of bundles ready for sale are floated down to Lagos on the tides. The presence and extent of this growth is at once remarkable in the town and villages of the district from the fact that nearly all the houses and fences are constructed from the *raphia vinifera*.

The open spaces that occasionally present themselves are the sites of deserted farms from which the vegetation has been recklessly removed in the past by burning to save labour; they are now only remarkable for their isolation, and the scrub that has taken the place of the former rich vegetation.

From such sites a double crop of corn could be reaped each year, or groves of plantains and bananas would there thrive luxuriantly.

Floating islets, torn away pieces of some river bank, covered by a rank grass from 4 to 5 feet high, are at times met, especially in the floods, and prove a source of some concern (to say nothing of the myriads of mosquitoes that seem to inhabit them) if allowed to get entangled with the chain of a steamer at anchor, which has been known to afford to snakes (some poisonous, all surrounded by doubt whether they are or not, and frequently met with in such islets) ready means of getting on board. This rank grass is used by the natives as fodder for pigs, and the islets are frequently staked in shallows as a feeding ground for fish, and later surrounded by a bamboo grating from which, after the islet has been cut to pieces, are removed the fish by circular hand nets.

The papyrus grows luxuriantly along the banks, marked here and there by "Manatee" traps for the Manatee—*Manatus Senegalensis*—or by a bamboo pole with a white rag on the top to denote the opening of the creek leading to soms village or town.

In the Popo language the *Manatee* is called "Yingbinyingbin," and in Yoruba "Ese." They are harpooned in the traps referred

LAGOS.

to in the dry season when the waters of the lagoon are low during first half of the year.

The flesh of the "manatee" is much appreciated by the natives, resembling a combination of veal and pork. Strips of the hide, with the parts used as handles studded with brass headed nails, seem to be viewed as fashionable—and certainly effective, I should say—whips by the natives.

The pine-apple and *sansiviera guineensis* and *longiflora* grow extensively in wild luxuriance in the Appa kingdom; indeed the latter everywhere in the Colony seawards; they are put to little or no use by the natives, and present material from which might be derived important and valuable industries.

A most interesting industry, represented by the hand manufacture of pottery from black and red clay, proceeds at Beshe, most of the inhabitants of which are Popo, towards the encouragement and development of which I have given some attention.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 27.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

(ANTIGUA, ST. KITTS-NEVIS, DOMINICA, MONTSERRAT, AND VIRGIN ISLANDS.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOKS FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1888.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
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HODGES, FIGGIS, & Co., 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1888.

[C.—5249—24.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	1888	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports, 1886 and 1887).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
			d.
13	Jamacia and Turks Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report) -	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1½
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent - -	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Reports on Medical Department).	„	1

No. 27.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5249], [C.—5239], [C.—5071]; 1885 [C.—4842], [C.—4904]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193], [C.—4404]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3388], [C.—3642].]

Administrator W. F. HAYNES SMITH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Antigua,
July 30, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a separate Blue Book, accompanied with the usual report for the year 1887 from each of the five Presidencies of which the Colony is composed.

2. I would submit to your Lordship that there is no good reason why the ordinary rules should not in future be followed in this Colony as in all others of having one Blue Book for the whole Colony. It would be easy to tabulate the information in any way required with full departmental reports as regards each Island or Presidency, while the important interests common to all the Presidencies and falling under the general Government would be brought under review instead of as at present being altogether left unnoticed.

3. I was not administering the Government during any portion of the year referred to in the Blue Books, and I therefore do not here enter on the various questions affecting the development and welfare of the Colony as a whole which I desire to bring under your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. F. HAYNES SMITH.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

U 55472. Wt. 11980.

ANTIGUA.

ANTIGUA.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1887.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue of 1886 - -	41,451	11	0
„ of 1887 - -	44,032	7	8½

showing an excess for 1887 over that of 1886 of 2,580*l.* 16*s.* 8½*d.*

This excess is accounted for by the fact that in 1887 there was a large revival in trade and a consequent increase in the following items of revenue:—Customs Duties, 2,104*l.* 3*s.* 6½*d.*; an increase of 521*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* in Excise Duties, resulting from the same circumstances; 570*l.* 0*s.* 2½*d.* arrears of rent collected from Redonda; 159*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.* increase in Licenses, making a total increase of 3,355*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, against which there was a falling off in Stamps, Fees of Office, Fines, Miscellaneous, and Taxes, amounting in the whole to 774*l.* 11*s.* 6½*d.*

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure for 1886 - -	41,055	7	8
„ for 1887 -	44,615	6	3½

showing an excess of 3,559*l.* 18*s.* 7½*d.* over that of 1886; but from this must be deducted the sum of 3,842*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* charged on account of the new reservoir, for which a special loan of 6,000*l.* was raised in 1886. This would leave the ordinary expenditure of 1887 40,772*l.* 19*s.* 2½*d.*, which would be a slight decrease as compared with the expenditure of 1886.

There was an excess of revenue over expenditure of 3,259*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, so that, with a balance in hand from last year of 15,084*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.*, deducting waterworks expenditure 3,842*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, there remained on hand, on the 31st December 1887, 11,242*l.* 7*s.* 7½*d.*, of which 367*l.* 0*s.* 7½*d.* belonged to the waterworks, leaving 10,875*l.* 7*s.* 0*d.* to the credit of the general Government.

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Presidency on the 31st December 1887:—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
British Guiana and Windward Islands. Money Orders - - - - - -	12	13	6			
Jamaica. Money Orders - - -	1	4	7			
				13	18	1
Federal Contribution - - - -	110	12	1½			
Due by other Presidencies - - -	303	18	9			
				414	10	10½
Crown Agents - - - - - -	588	9	11			
Deposits at interest in Colonial Bank - -	6,800	0	0			
Cash Balance in Colonial Bank - - -	4,653	17	8½			
				12,042	7	7½
Total - - - -	—		£	12,470	16	7

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Immigration Deposit Account - - -	800	0	0			
Do. Current - - -	271	0	0			
Unrepresented Estates - - - -	44	4	6½			
Escheated Estates - - - -	177	4	0½			
Barbuda, Island of - - - -	322	18	5½			
Registration of Titles, Assurance Fund - -	12	5	10			
Ecclesiastical Tax - - - -	442	8	11			
Leeward Islands. Money Orders - -	8	7	0½			
United States. Do. - -	299	13	1			
Waterworks Commissioners Account, New Reservoir - - - - -	367	4	4½			
				2,745	6	3½
Excess of Assets - - - - -				9,725	10	3½
Total - - - - £				12,470	16	7

Public Debt.

The public debt of the Presidency on account of loans was, on the 31st of December 1887, 21,271*l.*, less sinking funds amounting to 3,549*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, leaving an excess of liabilities of 17,721*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*

Public Works.

The principal public works which have been in progress during the year are the additional reservoir at Gray's Hill, the quarantine station at Fort James, and the branch lunatic asylum at the Ridge.

The additional reservoir has not yet been completed, and an additional loan will be required, together with a grant in aid from general revenue for piping. It is hoped that this very necessary work will be shortly completed.

The reconstruction of the buildings at Fort James was commenced in November, and estimated to cost 550*l.* The buildings, when completed, will provide a suitable quarantine station, a want long felt in the Presidency.

The branch lunatic asylum at the Ridge was completed this year, and is now in full operation, relieving that at Rat Island of the excessive number of inmates.

ANTIGUA.

Legislation.

There were 10 local Acts passed by the Legislature in 1887, viz.:—

No. 1 of 1887. An Act for removing doubts as to the validity of certain acts and proceedings done and taken under the Act, No. 12, of 1868, entitled, "An Act to amend the Antigua Water-"works Act, 1864, as far as it relates to the mode of assessment "of annual rentals and the recovery of the water tax thereon," and for amending the said Act.

No. 2 of 1887. An Act to give further facilities to regulate communications with vessels arriving in this Presidency.

No. 3 of 1887. An Act to declare certain subjects to be within the competency of the general Legislature.

No. 4 of 1887. An Act to amend the Medical and Poor Relief Act 1870, and to provide for the better accommodation of lunatics.

No. 5 of 1887. An Act to appoint commissioners of contracts.

No. 6 of 1887. An Act to regulate the manufacture, importation, storage, and carriage of specially dangerous explosives.

No. 7 of 1887. An Act to amend the Act, No. 1, of 1870, entitled "An Act to levy a tax on certain wheeled vehicles" by reducing the tax on job carts.

No. 8 of 1887. An Act to suspend certain Acts of this Presidency imposing an export duty on sugar.

No. 9 of 1887. An Act to continue certain Acts which are about to expire.

No. 10 of 1887. An Act to provide for the service of the Presidency of Antigua for the year 1888.

Civil Establishment.

Lord Gormanston left the Colony on the 7th of July on leave of absence, and Mr. Neale Porter, the Colonial Secretary, assumed the administration of the Government. Mr. William Ann Coull was appointed to act as Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Edwin Baynes was appointed to act as Magistrate for district B. Lord Gormanston returned on the 1st of December, and Mr. Porter, the Colonial Secretary, left on the 9th of December to assume the duties of Colonial Secretary of Jamaica. Mr. Coull was again appointed to act as Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Edwin Baynes as Magistrate. Mr. T. Baynes acted as Attorney-General and Mr. Beard as Solicitor-General during Mr. Tyser's absence on leave.

Mr. Roper acted as Inspector of Schools during Mr. Drinkwater's absence on leave.

Mr. Edward Baynes acted as President of Montserrat till the 8th of October and Mr. R. B. Roden acted as Clerk of the General Council, and Mr. A. E. Eldridge as Clerk to the Local Council.

Education.

There has been no increase in the number of schools on the list but there has been an increase in the attendance of children.

The total cost of education in the Presidency was 1,477*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, as against 1,389*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* The amount expended yearly varies with the result of inspection.

Imports and Exports.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Crops.
	£	£	Hhds.
1883 - - - -	183,686	222,676	12,402
1884 - - - -	169,500	177,807	16,178
1885 - - - -	144,444	158,890	13,910
1886 - - - -	131,628	159,686	14,467
1887 - - - -	145,228	152,037	16,332

The following is a statement of the sugar shipped in 1887, and its destination.

—	United Kingdom.	United States.	British North America.	Other Places.
Hogsheads -	750	15,090	482	10

Total, 16,332 Hogsheads.

From this return it will be observed that the export of our produce to the United States and British North America is steadily on the increase, showing the continued unattractive condition of the English market.

General Remarks.

The health of the Island generally was good. The agricultural condition, however, remains much depressed in consequence of the continued low price of sugar which has shown no tendency to rise; the beneficial results of the conference on the sugar bounty question is still looked forward to with much interest and hopeful-

ANTIGUA.

ness; the question arises whether our proprietors are wise in depending wholly on sugar without endeavouring in some way to avail themselves of the resources at their command, such as the establishment of minor industries which may successfully be developed.

WILLIAM A. COULL,
Acting Colonial Secretary of the
Leeward Islands, and President and
Island Secretary of Antigua.

31st May 1888.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

BLUE BOOK REPORT for 1887.

The gloomy views expressed by me in the Blue Book Reports for 1885 and 1886 remain unaltered, notwithstanding some slight alteration in the financial year, and as the Presidency can only hold its own by reason of successive crops in excess of an average, any falling from this standard must be attended with serious difficulty, and I adhere to the opinion that a readjustment of our revenue and expenditure is much to be desired. It must be always remembered that until the purchasing power of the masses is increased by wage or cheaper food, the anticipated receipts from duties on luxuries are not likely to be realised.

The ordinary transactions for the year may be summarized as follows:

	£	s.	d.
January 1st, balance in hand -	2,712	18	0
Ordinary revenue - - -	36,318	4	2½
Basseterre protection loan refunded	1,900	0	0
Wharfage dues, minus repairs to piers - - - -	778	17	7
	£41,709	19	9½

	£	s.	d.
Ordinary expenditure - -	36,610	15	9
Arrears of 1886 - - -	635	18	7
Inter Colonial money orders -	132	12	11½
Sandy Point Water Commissioners expended - - -	1,182	2	4
Balance in hand on 31st December	3,148	10	2
	£41,709	19	9½

The expenditure for the year, inclusive of the arrears of 1886, was in excess of the Revenue by 296*l.* 11*s.* 6½*d.*; these arrears may be fairly chargeable against the credit balance brought forward from 1886 of 2,712*l.* 18*s.*

The balance in hand on the 31st December was some 1,700*l.* short after providing for the payment of special funds in the Treasury, such as Escheat, Casual Receiver, Sandy Point, and Dieppe Bay Water Commissioners, Land Claimants, Provost Marshal's Deposit account. I would allude here to the incorrectness of quoting Blue Book balances as available without ascertaining the amount due to special funds.

The export duty on produce failed to realise its accustomed receipt consequent* on the retirement of the Rector of St. Mary and Christ Church on the 1st January, by which the duty on sugar ceased to be levied in those parishes, and the reduction of the export tax in Nevis from 8*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.* per hogshead.

The revenue fell short of the estimate under the following heads:—Licenses, stamps, and the collection under the Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay Waterworks. On the other hand, the cavalry tax, tonnage dues, post office, and excise produced increased receipts, and 94*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* were received for rental of the Salt Ponds in Anguilla. I may here mention that the 1,900*l.* of the loan to the Basseterre Protection were refunded this year by the issue of debentures.

The expenditure was less than the estimate by more than 1,600*l.*, the utmost economy being observed. Pensions, education, works and buildings, and general government of the Leeward Islands were somewhat in excess, while ecclesiastical, hospital, police, roads, quarantine, and conveyance of mails were less in their expenditure.

The assets and liabilities to the 31st December were as follows:—

Assets.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Deposits, General Revenue -	3,600	0	0
Cash on current account - -	17	6	5
Cash in Anguilla chest - -	10	9	2
Cash, Crown Agents - -	604	14	7
Debentures, Immigration account -	10,976	14	2
Borrowers of Loan, due by -	447	10	0
Sinking Fund, Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay Waterworks -	80	0	0
Sinking Fund, Basseterre Protection Works - - - -	20	0	0
Excess of liabilities - -	12,523	12	4½
	28,280	6	8½

* The chief export duties in St. Christopher were levied for the support of the Church Establishment, and under the process of gradual disestablishment now being carried out, they cease to be levied in each parish as the existing incumbent dies or retires.

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.
Holders of Basseterre Improvement debentures - -	200	0	0
St. Christopher Immigration Fund	10,735	10	10
Nevis „ -	605	1	10½
Escheated Estates - -	61	18	10
Unrepresented Estates - -	188	10	1½
Land Claimants - - -	49	5	1
Casual Receiver - - -	10	13	8½
Debenture holders, Basseterre Protection Loan - - -	3,900	0	0
Debenture holders, Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay Waterworks -	8,000	0	0
Provost Marshal's deposit account	21	10	1½
Wharfage account - -	1,310	15	2½
Commissioners, Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay Waterworks -	3,197	0	11
	28,280	6	8½

The following statistics may prove interesting:—

—	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1883 - - - - -	205,755	252,267
1884 - - - - -	213,583	205,497
1885 - - - - -	152,874	199,075
1886 - - - - -	170,735	159,971
1887 - - - - -	179,585	223,821

Places from and Value of Imports.

—	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	100,560	102,048	64,561	73,587	77,530
British Colonies -	20,868	20,702	18,119	18,593	20,173
Foreign Countries -	84,359	90,833	70,194	78,554	81,882

Places to and Value of Exports.

—	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	156,417	97,989	53,662	17,198	12,259
British Colonies -	8,958	9,724	10,302	12,947	15,959
Foreign Countries -	86,892	97,784	135,111	129,816	195,622

Produce shipped.

—	Sugar.	Molasses.	Rum.	Value.
	Hhds.	Puncheons.	Puncheons.	£
1883 - -	14,794	5,520	378	238,474
1884 - -	19,380	3,180	1,113	189,280
1885 - -	16,160	3,787	1,536	183,520
1886 - -	14,389	4,135	364	145,743
1887 - -	20,744	6,536	783	209,548

Analysis of Imports.

	£	s.	d.
Duties paid on —			
Food - - - -	8,069	4	0½
Candles and K. oil - - -	972	9	7½
Spirits and malt - - -	3,085	0	8½
Tobacco and cigars - -	953	4	2
Corn and oats - - -	282	0	9
Wood and shingles - -	1,517	7	11½
Live stock - - -	42	5	10
Ad valorem duty, value of articles:—			
Aerated waters - - -	406	1	6
Boots and shoes - - -	3,259	17	0
Bran - - - -	70	6	1
Bricks and tiles - - -	225	19	3
Carriages - - -	396	12	0
Coal - - - -	652	0	7
Cement and lime - - -	726	3	10
Chemicals - - - -	1,238	10	10
Cottons - - - -	23,280	12	2
Earthenware - - -	916	7	0
Estates' stores - - -	748	14	10
Fancy goods - - -	3,497	12	4

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

	£	s.	d.
Furniture - - - -	451	4	8
Glass - - - -	541	8	8
Guns and ammunition - -	115	19	7
Groceries - - - -	2,326	15	6
Haberdashery - - -	9,813	4	3
Hats and caps - - -	625	1	6
Hardware - - - -	5,778	3	4
Leather - - - -	1,656	19	0
Matches - - - -	377	13	3
Naval stores - - -	1,379	2	2
Oil meal - - - -	3,251	2	1
Oil and paints - - -	729	0	2
Packages - - - -	976	1	7
Stationery - - -	340	1	7
Tallow - - - -	97	18	11
Paper - - - -	96	15	9
Free goods, value thereof :—			
Machinery - - -	1,744	14	10
Government stores - -	840	15	7
Manures - - - -	4,866	7	8
Books - - - -	453	19	3
Vegetables - - -	1,052	17	2
Small stock - - -	150	0	0
Church furniture - - -	25	18	0

Crops from 1810 *to* 1887.

I am sorry I can only furnish the St. Christopher crop for any lengthened period, as many of the Nevis returns were destroyed in the fire of 1873.

St. Christopher.

—	Hogsheads.	Average.
1810 to 1819 - - - -	72,483	7,248
1820 „ 1829 - - - -	74,161	7,461
1830 „ 1839 - - - -	68,990	6,899
1840 „ 1849 - - - -	57,266	5,726
1850 „ 1859 - - - -	75,157	7,515
1860 „ 1869 - - - -	103,964	10,396
1870 „ 1879 - - - -	105,751	10,751
1880 „ 1882 - - - -	37,464	12,464

The Islands of St. Christopher and Nevis were united in 1883.

The average crop in St. Kitts from 1878 to 1882 (inclusive) was 12,693 hhds., and in Nevis for the same period 3,111 hhds., giving an average of 15,804 hhds.

The crops since 1883 to 1887 (inclusive) were 78,521 hhds., giving an average for both Islands of 17,093 hhds.

Rainfall in St. Kitts.

1856 to 1865, average 61·81 in.
1866 „ 1875, „ 48·43 in.
1876 „ 1885, „ 49·19 in.
1886 „ 1887, „ 52·90 in.

Postal Information.

Inland Post.	Letters and Books.	
	St. Kitts.	Nevis.
From Post Office to out-stations -	14,909	8,054
From out-stations to Post Office -	6,307	1,529
Deliveries in Basseterre and Charlestown	8,440	181
Post Office, St. Kitts, to and from Nevis	7,197	3,836
„ Nevis „ „ St. Kitts	3,836	7,197
	40,689	20,797

Imperial and other postage.
Letters to London and other parts of United Kingdom, 8,784.

Letters, &c. in transit through London.

——	Letters.	Post Cards.	Books.
Africa - - - - -	38	—	24
Austria - - - -	1	—	—
Australia - - - -	31	—	6
Belgium - - - -	1	—	—
Brazil - - - - -	2	—	—
Borneo, North - - - -	2	1	5
China - - - - -	12	—	—
Ceylon - - - - -	19	—	2

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——	Letters.	Post Cards.	Books.
Corsica - - - -	1	—	—
Costa Rica - - - -	2	—	—
Cape of Good Hope - - -	2	—	—
Denmark - - - -	35	—	1
Egypt - - - - -	—	—	1
Fiji - - - - -	14	—	1
France - - - -	115	1	12
Finland - - - -	1	—	—
Greece - - - - -	1	—	—
Germany - - - -	244	19	10
Gibraltar - - - -	2	0	1
Holland - - - -	59	—	—
India - - - - -	35	—	—
Japan - - - - -	2	—	—
Java - - - - -	1	3	—
Madeira - - - -	60	—	1
Mexico - - - -	1	1	—
New South Wales - - -	7	—	—
Norway - - - -	9	—	—
New Zealand - - - -	2	—	—
Portugal - - - -	1	—	—
Russia - - - - -	—	1	—
Sweden - - -	12	—	—
Switzerland - - - -	16	1	1
St. Helena - - -	1	1	—
Spain - - - - -	3	—	—
Tasmania - - - -	1	—	1

Letters to West Indies.

Antigua - - - -	4,130
Barbados - - - -	2,219
Demerara - - - -	873
Dominica - - - -	1,033

Grenada	615
Guadeloupe	241
Martinique	221
Jamaica	183
Montserrat	912
St. Lucia	590
St. Vincent	319
Tobago	13
Trinidad	2,518
Curaçao	10
Venezuela	155
Colon	137
St. Thomas	1,511
Tortola	105
Porto Rico	120
Surinam	6
Jacmel	78
Turks Island	3
Havana	22
New York	5,273
Halifax	383
Bahamas	11
Bermuda	44

Money Orders.

	£	s.	d.
Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom	4,546	1	8
Money Orders from United Kingdom paid	232	6	5
Money Orders issued on Leeward Islands	574	0	11
Money Orders paid from Leeward Islands	576	8	9½
Money Orders issued on Windward Islands	356	2	3
Money Orders paid from Windward Islands	103	2	2
Money Orders issued on United States	24	3	3
Money Orders paid from United States	63	16	4

Postage Stamps.

Sold at Post Offices	784	12	1

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

—	Births.		Deaths.		Marriages.	
	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.
St. Kitts - -	1,272	1,213	1,004	1,003	181	159
Nevis - - -	599	809	397	360	70	96
Anguilla - -	139	150	68	41	20	10
	2,010	2,172	1,469	1,404	271	265

Legislation.

Twenty Ordinances were passed during the year.

Nos. 1 and 4 provided for expenditure in 1886 and 1887.

No. 2 reduced the Nevis export tax from 8*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 2*d.* prohibition, and other packages in proportion.

No. 6 suspended the Nevis land tax for one year.

No. 8 suspended the St. Kitts immigration tax for one year.

No. 10 increased the import duties on gin, rum, and tobacco.

No. 11 increased the excise duty.

No. 12 amended the liquor licenses.

No. 16 amended schedule of exemptions of imports by striking out "the president."

Nos. 19, 20 continued the operations of Nos. 6 and 8 for another year.

No. 5 defines new limits of Charlestown, Nevis.

No. 7 repeals a Nevis Act with reference to trespass of sheep.

No. 9 regulates the coasting trade.

No. 13 provides for the appointment of licensed surveyors.

No. 14 empowers the Federal Legislature to pass a Stamp Act.

No. 15 provides for a more easy recovery of small rents.

No. 17 prevents unqualified persons vending medicines.

No. 18 prohibits the sale of adulterated food and drugs.

No. 3 to give further facilities for regulating communication with vessels.

Savings Banks.

St. Kitts, 31st Dec. 1887. 206 depositors, 5,363*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*
Nevis, do. 68 do. 2,295*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*

General.

The only important changes in office were the promotion of his Excellency Governor Lord Gormanston to Demerara, and the

assumption of the Government of the Leeward Islands by his Excellency Mr. Administrator Haynes Smith.

I reported so fully last year on the abolition of import and export duties that I can but reiterate my hope of seeing them speedily abolished.

A financial report was prepared during the year by a Commission appointed by Lord Gormanston. As the suggestions made by the Commissioners are under the consideration of the Executive it would be inopportune for any detailed remarks on the existing state of financial difficulty.

C. M. ELDRIDGE,
President.

DOMINICA.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for 1887.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

Land and House Tax.

1. As this was the first year of the new land and house tax it may not be out of place to describe shortly the result of its working.

2. Owners of property were required to furnish returns giving a description of their property, and, if cultivated, the nature and extent of the cultivation.

3. A board of Commissioners, composed of two officials, two leading merchants in Roseau, and two of the principal planters sat in Roseau to inspect these returns and assess a value for each property, the owner having a right of appeal to the Supreme Court if dissatisfied with the valuation.

4. The total number of properties valued was 5,313, and the total valuation 195,909*l.** The valuation of the town of Roseau was 58,081*l.*, and of the rest of the Island, 137,828*l.*

5. It would be rash to place any degree of dependence on the returns of the bulk of the country properties, especially those of the peasant proprietors, and consequently on the valuations which depended almost entirely on the correctness of the return.

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* Fractions omitted throughout, the nearest unit being given; the detailed figures are given in the returns.

It would not be difficult to gradually have each property visited and valued by a competent person, whose valuation, subject to hearing any objection on the part of the proprietor, would be adopted by the Commissioners as the taxable value. Greater certainty would be attained in the end, and the cost of such a valuation would be amply recouped by the result.

6. The scale which the Commissioners adopted as a fair average value for cultivated and waste lands was as follows:—

Cultivated lands.—Sugar, per acre 5*l.*
" Cocoa, " 15*l.* to 20*l.* (according to age.)
" Limes, per acre, 15*l.* to 20*l.* (according to locality.)
" Provisions, per acre, 3*l.* to 5*l.* (according to quality.)

Uncultivated lands.—Good, per acre, 1*l.* to 2*l.* (according to locality.)
" Barren, per acre, 10*s.* (according to locality.)

7. The highest valuation of any single house property in Roseau was 700*l.*, and of any plantation 2,500*l.* The total acreage returned (deducting all town lots and villages) was 62,709, and the cultivated acreage was, according to the returns—

Sugar - - - -	2,576 acres.
Cocoa - - - -	1,042 "
Lime - - - -	505 "
Provisions - - - -	2,363 "

A very small area in coffee may be added. But little dependence can be placed, as has been said, on these figures.

8. The tax imposed was 10*s.* per 100*l.* assessed value, plus the additional per-centages of 10 and 5 per cent. on the tax. The amount collected was 884*l.*, or 84*l.* in excess of the estimate (800*l.*). The cost of collection is about 30*l.*, exclusive of clerical assistance.

9. Simplification in the machinery for collecting arrears from defaulters is highly desirable. The same remark applies to the collection of arrears of the road tax, the receipts of which amounted in the year to 406*l.*, or 194*l.* (nearly one-third) short of the estimate, 600*l.*

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

10. The total receipts from revenue excluding all accounts which are not properly sources of revenue, amounted to 15,702*l.*

or 865*l.* less than the estimate, 16,567*l.* The principal items which were below the estimates are as follows:

—	Estimates.	Receipts.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£
Tonnage and package dues -	450	358	92
Export - - -	1,100	1,011	89
Excise - - -	2,200	1,861	339
Liquor and still - -	450	404	46
Post Office revenue - -	350	282	68
Trade licenses - -	325	272	83
Fees of office - - -	350	194	156
Road Tax - - -	600	406	194
			£1,067

11. The principal items which were above the estimates are—

—	Estimates.	Receipts.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Import duty - - -	6,200	6,262	62
Harbour fees - - -	150	223	73
Land and house tax - -	800	884	84
Horse tax - - -	75	112	37
			£256

12. The principal causes of the following items being below the estimates are shortly—

Tonnage Duties.—Although these items show an increase over 1886, the item was over estimated.

Exports.—The cocoa crop was very short in a great part of the Island owing to high winds when the trees were in blossom, and the crop being generally late last year, part of it came into the exports for 1888, which otherwise would have been shipped in 1887. The exports of sugar, owing to the depression of the industry, and of molasses, owing to the high duty on its import in Martinique, were lower.

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Excise, Liquor and Still, and Trade Licenses.

13. The same cause which affects the first of these items may be said to affect the other two, viz., the defective condition of the excise law as regards the means of carrying it properly into effect. The manufacture and sale of rum having found its way into the hands of the lowest and least accessible section of the community, as well as the respectable class of planters, merchants, and shopkeepers, but small guarantee of honesty remains. The excise law has been evaded with systematic diligence and its defects discovered with successful ingenuity. The stoppage of the export of sugar and molasses materially increases the manufacture of rum, and it would be but little exaggeration to say that not more than one-half of the rum now made pays any duty. This not only directly affects the revenue from excise and liquor and still licenses, but also indirectly that from trade licenses, for most if not all of the small licensed spirit retailers usually take out also a low class retail trade license, but their profits from the latter may be said to be infinitesimal as compared with those from the sale of rum, and if the rum distiller finds it feasible as well as profitable to sell rum illicitly, he will supply his customers without the intervention of the retail licensed middleman.

14. A comparison of the receipts from excise, liquor and still, and trade licenses for the last six years shows the following results:—

—	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Excise - - -	2,518	2,665	2,327	2,012	2,234	1,861
Liquor and still -	438	627	514	460	390	403
Trade licenses - -	376	386	381	322	304	272

The excise duty gave 657*l.* less than in 1882 and 373*l.* less than in 1886, although there were more licensed liquor shops and stills in 1887 than in 1886.

The liquor and still licenses gave, after considerable fluctuation, 35*l.* less than in 1885 and 13*l.* more than in 1886, although the excise was less.

The trade licenses gave 104*l.* less than in 1885, and 32*l.* less than in 1886, although the import receipts were nearly 400*l.* more in 1887 than in 1886, and 450*l.* than in 1885, the deduction being that legitimate trade is giving place to illegitimate liquor traffic, and the result must be ultimately as ruinous to the population, especially the lower class, as to the finances of the Island. It is significant that the expenditure for the maintenance of lunatics and of diseased and infirm paupers in the public

institutions, and the number of gratuitously treated patients in the country are also increasing. An amendment in certain directions of the excise and revenue laws is urgently required.

Post Office Revenue.—The excess in the receipts of the previous year over those of 1887 is due principally to large sales of newly-issued stamps to stamp dealers.

Fees of Office.—This item was over estimated, the receipts for the year 1885 being 325*l.*, in 1886 203*l.*, and in 1887 194*l.*

Road Tax.—The present system of assessing and collecting the tax is most unsatisfactory, and the collection of arrears from defaulters requires simplification.

15. With regard to those items which were above the estimate:

Import Duties.—There was a slight increase under this head above the estimates. The import duties for the past six years are as follows:—

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
£ 7,550	£ 8,086	£ 7,335	£ 5,815	£ 5,880	£ 6,262

showing an upward tendency in trade since the fall from 8,086*l.* in 1883 to 5,851*l.* in 1885, and it is to be hoped that with a fast increasing exportation of cocoa, lime-juice, and fruits, the upward movement will continue,

The export duties for the same period are—

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
£ 1,284	£ 1,271	£ 914	£ 1,116	£ 1,006	£ 1,011

the low figures in 1884 being the consequence of the hurricane of 1883.

16. The total revenue for those years is—

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
£ 20,284	£ 19,972	£ 16,513	£ 15,144	£ 15,238	£ 15,702

The above shows an upward improvement for the last two years, and if the arrears of revenue and other special accounts, not really sources of revenue, be deducted from the total receipts of the two years respectively, the result shows the actual receipts for 1886

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14,999*l.*, for 1887 15,532*l.*, or an actual increase of 533*l.* in favour of 1887. With improvements in detail in the collection of certain taxes these figures might be further considerably increased.

Expenditure.

17. The total estimated expenditure for the year was 17,180*l.*, as against 16,567*l.* estimated revenue. Estimated deficit, 613*l.*

The total expenditure was 16,774*l.*, as against 15,702*l.* actual revenue; actual deficit, 1,072*l.* The expenditure was, therefore, 705*l.* less than estimated, and the deficit was 459*l.* more than was expected, but the above expenditure includes a sum of 676*l.* of arrears of 1886 expenditure paid in 1887, while the receipts in 1887 from arrears of 1886 was only 74*l.* The nett transaction, exclusive of arrears for 1887, will therefore be: Revenue, 15,532*l.*; expenditure, 16,098*l.*, reducing the deficit on the year's account to 396*l.* or 217*l.* less than estimated.

18. Amongst the items in which there was an increase of expenditure over the previous year are:—

Police, 1,328*l.* in 1887 as against 952*l.* in 1886. The number of constables was raised from 11 to 30 at the close of the previous year, the former number having been found insufficient for their ordinary duties.

Pensions, 780*l.* as against 652*l.* Mr. Joseph Fadelle, late Registrar and Provost Marshal, retired on a pension of 300*l.* per annum in May 1886, and the expenditure under this head was 22*l.* more than was anticipated.

There was an increase in the number of paupers and patients maintained in the charitable institutions, and the expenditure for the year was 2,265*l.* as against 2,112*l.* in 1886, or an increase of 153*l.*

In *Miscellaneous Payments*, which show an increased expenditure of 63*l.*, is an item of 186*l.* for the year's contribution from the Presidency on account of the Postal Union Service. This had been allowed to fall into arrear, and three years' contributions were paid off in 1887; 186*l.* of this is included in Miscellaneous Expenditure under its proper vote, those for the two previous years, amounting to 362*l.*, being included in "arrears."

The item *Telegraph* shows an increased expenditure of 100*l.*, the expenditure in 1886 being 100*l.*, and in 1887 200*l.*; but the total subsidy for the year being 400*l.* it will be seen that the increase is but an effort to meet a little more of the obligations to the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company. In 1886 the subsidy fell three quarters into arrear, and this was reduced to two quarters in arrear on 31st December 1887. It is doubtful whether the revenue can bear the continuance of this charge at the present rate of 400*l.* per annum.

The expenditure for *Piers and Wharves* shows an increase of 199*l.*, represented by the purchase of a buoy which was laid

down in the Roseau Roadstead in October, at a cost of about 200*l.* This will be recouped by the fees for its use. It is a great convenience to the steamers and other vessels calling in for a short time.

19. Those items which show a decrease of expenditure compared with the previous year are principally :—

Federal Establishment.—Decrease 83*l.*, owing to a saving in pensions and transport.

Civil Establishment.—103*l.* was saved in the salary of the Surveyor-General, which was paid by the Presidency of Antigua, where his services were required during the year.

Judicial Establishment.—A permanent saving of 215*l.* has been effected by the reduction of the salary of the Registrar and Provost Marshal from 400*l.* to 250*l.*, and in the salary of the Interpreter of the Supreme Court, which on Mr. Fadelle's retirement was reduced from 50*l.* to 25*l.*, also by the abolition of the office of third clerk at 40*l.* As the vacancy in the office of Registrar and Provost Marshal only occurred in October, the amount actually saved was 77*l.*

Under *Police and Gaols* there was a decrease of 48*l.* consequent on a decrease in the number of prisoners.

Under *Roads and Bridges* appears a decrease of 195*l.*, but it would be a mistake to think that any real saving has been effected, as many repairs which were urgently required had to be postponed for want of funds, and these will have to be effected ultimately at a greater cost.

Under *Interest* a saving of 30*l.* appears, but this is simply due to the fact that the sum was not drawn by the party to whom it was due, and it is still in the Treasury.

20. The aggregate of increase and decrease in the year's expenditure amount respectively to 1,610*l.* and 578*l.*, but, as has been pointed out, of the 1,610*l.*, 612*l.* is arrears paid off. 199*l.* is represented by the new buoy, which is a profitable investment, and 100*l.* increase of telegraph is simply a reduction of an outstanding liability. On the other hand of the 578*l.*, 103*l.* is an accidental saving of the Surveyor-General's salary, 195*l.* is represented by repairs left undone, and 30*l.* is awaiting payment to a public creditor.

Public Debt.

21. The Public Debt amounts in the whole to 13,400*l.*, equivalent to 9*s.* 6*d.* per head of the population. It consists of the Waterworks Loan of 1875 and 1877. 5,900*l.*, on which interest at 6 per cent. is paid, and the accumulations of Sinking Fund of 2½ per cent., amounting on 31st December to 2,040*l.*, are invested by the Crown Agents for the Colonies. It has been proposed to form a new Sinking Fund, at the rate of 1 per cent., and exchange the debentures which are redeemable in 1901 for fresh ones bear-

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ing the same rate of interest, redeemable at periods of five years after 1901; a number equivalent in amount to the accumulated Sinking Fund at the time being drawn by lot for redemption. The present accumulation of Sinking Fund would be utilised at once in paying off the Yaws Loan of 1878, 1,000*l.*, which also bears interest at 6 per cent., and in the discharge of the current debt to Federal and Crown Agents accounts, amounting to about 1,100*l.* The matter is still open. An Act was passed by the House of Assembly, authorising the operation, but the recent important changes in the English money markets have made it questionable whether it would be altogether advantageous to the Presidency to postpone the repayment of a debt, carrying what may now be termed abnormally high interest, to a period of 40 years; and if means can be found for paying off the 1,000*l.* Yaws Loan at its present rate of interest and reducing the debit on current account, it may be still possible to avoid the necessity for carrying into effect the proposed appropriation of the Waterworks Sinking Fund.

22. Besides the 5,900*l.* Waterworks Loan there are :—

The Yaws Loan of 1,000*l.* raised in 1878 for the erection of Yaws Hospitals, when the disease was very virulent in this Island. The debt carries interest at 6 per cent. and is repayable in 1890.

The Public Works Loan of 5,000*l.*, raised in 1881 for the erection of an embankment on the Roseau River, the extension of the waterworks, and other public purposes. This carries interest at the rate of 5 per cent. The Sinking Fund, which is formed by annual contributions at the rate of 1 per cent., amounted to 347*l.* on the 31st of December.

The Loan in aid of Revenue, 1884.—1,500*l.* raised locally to relieve the financial necessities caused by the disastrous hurricane of 1883. The rate of interest is 6 per cent., and the Sinking Fund is provided for by a special tax of 5 per cent. on most sources of revenue. The contributions, amounting on 31st December to 900*l.*, are invested at interest in the Colonial Bank. The debt is redeemable in 1889.

23. The statement of assets and liabilities of the Presidency on 31st December 1887 showed a balance of 11,697*l.* of liabilities in excess of assets, but if the Loan accounts be omitted, the contribution for Sinking Fund interest being paid up to date, and also a Postal balance, the actual excess of liabilities on ordinary current account may be put down at 1,487*l.*

Public Works.

24. No new public works were undertaken during the year, and even the more substantial repairs urgently required to the Supreme Court, gaol, hospitals, &c. had to be left untouched; 273*l.* was spent in petty repairs. The amount voted for the upkeep and repairs of the streets, roads, &c. was originally 600*l.*,

but this was entirely insufficient, especially as during the months of August and October heavy rains fell suddenly, doing considerable damage and causing much expense for the removal of landslips on the roads; a supplementary sum of 300*l.* was accordingly voted. The amount expended on 31st December was 892*l.*

Legislation.

25. The following Acts were passed during the year, viz.:—

No. 1 of 1887. An Act to amend Act No. 3 of 1876, entitled "An Act to provide for the collection of assessment upon "dwelling-houses, stores, warehouses, shops, wharves, cellars, "tenements, and other buildings, made and levied under the "authority and provisions of Waterworks Act, 1872 and any "subsequent Act or Acts amending or relating thereto," and for other purposes.

No. 2 of 1887. An Act to declare certain subjects to be within the competency of the General Legislature.

No. 3 of 1887. An Act for the better preservation of discipline in Her Majesty's ships of war while in this Presidency.

No. 4 of 1887. An Act to amend the Public Road Act, 1886.

No. 5 of 1887. An Act to make provision for the protection of certain wild birds.

No. 6 of 1887. An Act to regulate dealings in cocoa, coffee, limes, and spices, grown in this Island, and to make more adequate provision for the detection and punishment of robberies of growing crops.

No. 7 of 1887. Not assented to.

No. 8 of 1887. An Act to authorise the appropriation to the general revenue of the Presidency of the unexpended portion of the loan raised under the Loan Act, 1880.

No. 9 of 1887. An Act to continue the Import and Export Tax Act, 1879, until the 31st day of December 1888.

Act No. 1 provides for the charge of threepence per puncheon on water supplied to vessels. The sum which is charged is found to be insufficient to pay the cost of superintendence and collection, and it is paid by very few vessels.

Act No. 2. empowers the General Legislature of the Leeward Islands to regulate and fix the stamp duties for this Presidency amongst the others.

Act No. 3 is a measure passed generally by all the British Colonies prohibiting the bringing of spirituous liquors on board of Her Majesty's ships, without the previous consent of the commanding officer.

Act No. 4 is an amendment of the Public Road Act, 1886, in certain particulars respecting the making out, revision, and publication of lists of contributors, and for the appeal by dissatisfied parties to the district magistrate.

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Act No. 5 was passed to put a stop to the wanton destruction of small birds for the feather trade, and of game birds for food. One person alone, who came from Trinidad, exported in a short time thousands of humming-birds, purchased principally from the peasants, who destroyed great numbers of them as soon as they found they were saleable. If the law had not been passed it is more than probable that these and other birds of value would have soon become extinct, or, at any rate, driven to the inaccessible parts of the Island; as it is there has been a marked diminution in the numbers of the scarlet-throated humming-bird. There are two lists in the schedule to the Act, the first of birds the destruction or capture of which, including the nests and eggs, is made a punishable offence; they are:—

Humming-birds.
Siffleur Montagne.
Wren (Rossignol).
Yellow Warbler (Titine).
Redstart (chat).
Cheweck.
Swallow (Hirondelle).
Gobemouche.
Loggerhead (Pipiri).

The second list is that of larger wild birds commonly eaten here; they are:—

Parrot (cicero).
Parrakeet (Peroquet).
Blue Pigeon (Ramier).
Perdrix.
Dove (Tourterelle).
Ground Dove (Ortolan).
Gros Grive.
Grive.
Thrush (Pierrot Vanter).
Trambleur.
Morvie.

A close season, from February to October, inclusive, is enacted for their protection.

Act No. 6 was passed for the better protection of the growers of cocoa, coffee, limes, and spices, by preventing, as far as possible, those crops being stolen from plantations and sold to exporters. The Act provides for the licensing of all dealers in these products, and for their punishment in case of their failing to keep proper books showing the particulars of all such purchases; also that any person suspected of stealing these fruits may be searched by the police, and if found trespassing on a plantation with fruits in his possession may be made to give them up to the proprietor, and also to give his name and other particulars, and for his detention, prosecution, and punishment for refusal.

Act No. 7 was not assented to, and its inclusion in the list is an error, but having been accidentally numbered could not be omitted.

Act No. 8 authorised the appropriation to the general revenue of certain small balances of former loans for special purposes, the object of which had been fulfilled.

Act No. 9 was the annual Act continuing for another year the Import and Export Tax Acts, 1879.

Civil Establishment.

26. The fusion of the two offices of President and Treasurer which had been contemplated for some time was carried out in October on the appointment of Captain Churchill, acting President here, to the Presidency of Montserrat and the appointment of Mr. Le Hunte as his successor in Dominica. Mr. W. H. Porter who had been acting as Treasurer of Dominica for three years returned to St. Kitts and the two offices are now combined. The President now receives 600*l.* per annum as President and 100*l.* additional for Treasury duties. As the salary of the President was 700*l.* and that of the Treasurer 300*l.* the combination of offices effects a saving of 300*l.* per annum. It remains to be proved whether this experiment will prove an ultimate success or whether the sacrifice of effective power in abolishing one responsible officer does not more than counterbalance the apparent pecuniary advantage. No other changes took place in the Civil Establishment.

Pensions.

27. Two additions were made to the pension list, one a former nurse at the infirmary, and the other the late inspector of police, Mr. Beach. The first pensioner receives an annual grant of 7*l.* 16*s.* The contribution of Dominica to Mr. Beach's pension, which is granted under the Federal Act No. 13, of 1878, is 32*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* per annum. One pensioner in the receipt of an annual grant of 10*l.* died during the year.

Population.

28. According to the last census in 1881 the total population was as follows:

Whites - - - - -	361
Coloured population - - -	27,850
Total - - -	28,211

exclusive of aliens and resident strangers (1,007).

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With the exception of a very small proportion of officials, merchants, clerks, shopkeepers, and traders, in all about 400, the bulk of the population is employed in agriculture or the manufacture of agricultural products. In one or two places on the Leeward coast a considerable number are fishermen.

There were 671 births, or 27·7 per 1,000; 342 deaths, or 12·1 per 1,000.

There were 120 passports granted to emigrants to foreign possessions, principally to the gold mines in Cayenne and Bolivar, as against 56 in 1886, and 159 in 1885.

29. The aboriginal Carib population may be said to be about 300, if anything rather under that figure; from their own accounts they do not appear to be decreasing; there are plenty of healthy children. They are gradually becoming so intermixed with the negro race that in a comparatively short time the pure Carib, "Franc Carib," will be a thing of the past. They live in the Carib quarter, a reserve of considerable extent on the Windward side of the Island, and are very quiet and retiring; they cultivate small patches of provision grounds, and fish. They pay no direct taxes, but keep their roads in order.

There is no school in their quarter, and this is a defect which should be remedied; they are extremely anxious to obtain one, and there is no doubt that it would be a great boon to them. Their children appear to be particularly intelligent.

Ecclesiastical.

30. Of the three denominations, Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Wesleyan, the former is by far the largest. The clerical staff consists of a bishop and 15 priests. There is a fine cathedral in Roseau, and good chapels and presbyteries in all the country parishes. With the exception of the bishop, the Right Reverend M. Naughten, and the Reverend T. Molloy, the Roman Catholic clergy are French. They afford good examples, in many instances, of a practical combination of talent, skill, and energy, working with their own hands at the erection or re-building of their chapels and houses, many of which were greatly damaged, and some destroyed, by the hurricane of 1883. The average attendance of the congregation numbers altogether about 9,000.

31. There is one Anglican clergyman, the Rev. W. Evered, rector of Roseau. The church belongs to the diocese of Antigua; there is a church council elected by the congregation, and presided over by the rector, for the management of local matters. Services are held only in Roseau. The average attendance is about 250.

32. There are two Wesleyan ministers, one in Roseau, the Rev. F. O. Miller, and the other, the Rev. D. McDonald, at

Lasoye on the Windward side of the Island (since replaced by the Rev. L. Tabraham and the Rev. B. A. Queely respectively). The Lasoye minister also visits Portsmouth regularly. They have a good school (mixed) at Layou, where services are also held. The total average attendance of the congregation in Roseau and Lasoye is about 400. None of the denominations receive any aid from the public funds.

Education.

33. The report of the Acting Inspector-General of Schools, Mr. W. H. Roper, for 1887, shows that there were 23 schools open during the year for the education of children of all classes. The daily average attendance was 1,143 as against 1,192 in the previous year, but there is reason to believe that the apparent decrease is not a real one, but due to greater correctness in the returns kept by the teachers, which, in more than one instance, were detected as showing larger attendances than were actually correct.

34. There has been a steady progression in the schools towards the higher grades, as shown by the following figures:—

—	1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.	Failed.	Total.
1880 -	1	4	10	9	24
1885 -	1	6	12	3	22
1886 -	1	8	11	3	23
1887 -	1	9	11	2	23

35. The inspector remarks that "the mountainous character of "the Island, the sparseness of its population, which is spread over "an area greater than that of Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis "combined, and the fact that a barbarous French patois is the "language of the people, retard to a great extent the progress "of elementary education in this Presidency. Notwithstanding "these difficulties it possesses several fine schools that compare "favourably with schools of a corresponding class in the sister "Presidencies."

36. The subjects taught are reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, and sewing. It is questionable whether the present system of teaching grammar might not be changed with great practical advantage.

37. The best public school is the boys school at Roseau, which reflects great credit on the schoolmaster, Mr. Simon, the scholars possess a very fair knowledge of geography.

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There is an admirable school at the Roseau Convent for the education of the higher class of young ladies and there is also an orphanage school under the same management. Both these institutions are of the greatest benefit to the community. Amongst other useful accomplishments the sewing and embroidery taught is of a very high order, and the result is to be found in the country schools wherever the sewing mistress has been educated at the convent or orphanage schools. Very small children are able to show good plain work, and the older ones often very pretty embroidery as well. They are taught to make their own clothes, and it is of great practical advantage to them.

38. The Government schools are entirely supported by Government, the teachers receiving monthly salaries and one moiety of the school fees, which, however, are extremely insignificant (the total amount for the year was only 22*l.* 1*s.*). The Acting Inspector-General of Schools in his Report suggests that the teachers should be allowed to retain the whole of the fees.

The private schools included in the above numbers receive grants-in-aid according to the result of the inspector's examination.

Total number of schools 23.

No.	Description.	Scholars on Registers.	Average Attendance.	Expenditure.
				£ *s.* *d.*
13	Government - - -	1,129	660	622 4 5½
4	Roman Catholic - - -	325	200	87 9 0
3	Wesleyan - - -	231	122	68 16 0
2	Anglican - - -	162	92	45 12 0
1	Undenominational - -	83	69	23 16 0
23		1,930	1,143	£847 17 5½

39. The Inspector-General remarks, "The economy of denominational schools is unquestionable, the payment in aid, as "was pointed out by Mr. Marshall in his masterly report for the "year 1875, being regulated upon a scale as low as could have "been adopted with reasonable likelihood of bringing about the "object desired. The value of the system, however, lies not so "much in its economy, which in educational matters cannot be "accepted as a fair gauge of efficiency, but in the personal interest

" of each manager in his school, and the stimulus to progress " afforded by the friendly rivalry of competing religious bodies.

" In illustration of the economy of denominational schools I " have prepared the following table, which shows the average cost " to the Government of each child in the two classes of schools in " Dominica, the only Presidency where there are educational " institutions entirely supported by the Government.

Presidency of Dominica.	Average Attendance.	Government Expenditure.	Average Cost per capita.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Government Schools - -	660	*770 4 5½	1 3 4
Denominational Schools -	483	225 13 0	0 9 4

" * This amount includes salaries, rents, and purchase of school books, furniture, &c.'

40. Attendance is not compulsory, and Mr. Roper's remarks on this subject contained in paragraphs 72 to 76 of his able and interesting report are well worthy of attention. He points out that under present circumstances 40 per cent. of the children absent themselves from school " which means that, on the average, " there are absent from the primary schools of the Colony every " day 5,100 children whose names are upon the school roll " (the report is on the schools of the whole Colony), and he concludes by saying " In the absence of compulsory education a speedy " solution of the problem presented by this difficulty cannot be " expected. Without proceeding to the extent of enforcing " attendance, possibly a simple measure similar in its provisions to " those clauses of the Imperial Factory Act placing certain " restrictions on the employment of child labour under the age " of 10 might be attended by beneficial results in those islands " where 'grass gangs' flourish; it would not to any extent touch " Dominica, where the existence of hundreds of children that have " never been inside a school testifies to the need of compulsory " enforcement of attendance.

" With whatever financial or other difficulties the question may " be fraught, it is one to the necessity of which public opinion is " gradually ripening, and sooner or later it must engage the " attention of the Government. Combined with the present " denominational system which possesses in addition to its " economy valuable qualities of its own, compulsion will multiply " the value of existing schools and raise them to a higher standard " of efficiency."

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Imports and Exports.

41. The total values of the imports and exports were as follows:—

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.		
		Produce and Manufacture of the Island.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom -	20,344	12,712	21	12,733
British Colonies - -	8,381	2,536	60	2,596
Foreign Countries -	18,167	27,765	5,011	32,777
Grand Total £	46,892	43,013	5,092	48,106

The United Kingdom has nearly one-half of the import trade, and one-quarter of the exports. Of the British Colonies Barbados has naturally, as being the central trade depôt, the greatest share, the imports from there being 6,721*l.*, or about one-seventh of the total imports, and the exports to that place being 1,294*l.*, or one-quarter of the total. Of the foreign countries the United States has by far the largest proportion, Martinique the next, the imports and exports from and to those places respectively being

United States, imports from, 14,785*l.* or nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of total trade.
„ exports to, 25,659*l.* more than $\frac{1}{2}$ „ „
Martinique, imports from, 2,769*l.* about $\frac{1}{23}$ of total trade.
„ exports to, 4,158*l.* „ $\frac{1}{12}$ „ „

The outbreak of small-pox there and the consequent quarantine against it towards the end of the year will have affected the trade with Martinique. Guadeloupe comes next of the foreign countries, but the amount is very small, the imports being 288*l.*, and the exports 229*l.*

42. The principal articles of consumption and use are supplied by the United Kingdom, British Colonies, United States, and Martinique, as follows, each country being credited with the article which it supplies in greater proportion than the other.

United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	United States.	Martinique.
Ale, porter, and cider.	*Barbados.*	Beef and pork.	Earthenware.
Books.	Brandy.	Bread and biscuits.	Maccaroni.
Boots and shoes.	Butter.	Candles, tallow.	Oil, olive.

United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	United States.	Martinique.
Bricks.	Fish, dried.	Cheese.	Sugar, refined.
Candles other than tallow.	„ pickled.	Flour.	Vinegar wine.
Drugs.	Liqueurs.	Furniture.	
Estates' stores.	Rice.	Groceries and oilmen's stores.	
Gin.	Wood, pitch pine	Lard.	
Glassware.	„ staves.	Machinery.	
Hams, bacon, and tongues.	„ shooks.	Oil, kerosine.	
Haberdashery.	*Demerara.*	Perfumery.	
Jewellery.	Shingles, wallaba.	Sugar, refined.	
Leather and saddlery.		Tobacco leaf.	
Manures.		„ manufactured.	
Matches.		Wood, white pine.	
Oil, paint, lamp, and machinery.			
Soap.			
Stationery.			
Tea.			
Toys and fancy goods.			
Whisky.			
Wood hoops.			
Hardware.			

A similar division of the exports shows—

United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	United States.	Martinique.	Guadeloup
Cocoa.	*Antigua.*	Bay leaves.	Gin.	Farine.
Essential oils.	Coffee.	Fruit, limes, fresh.	Hides.	Oil, kerosine
Fruit, tamarinds.	Cocoa.	„ „ pickled.	Matches.	Tobacco, unmanufactured.
	Fruit, bananas.	„ oranges.	Molasses.	
	Barbados.	„ shaddocks.	Oil, cotton-seed.	
	Firewood.	„ juice.	Rum.	
	Fruit, pine-apples.	Lime juice.	Tobacco manufactured.	
		Sugar.	Wood, cedar and logwood.	

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It is an uncomfortable coincidence that Martinique takes our logwood and cotton-seed, and supplies us with claret and olive oil.

43. The quantities and value of the principal products of the Island exported during the year were :—

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.	Average local value.
		£	
Bay leaves - - -	492 bales	492	1*l.* per bale.
Bananas - - -	6,000 bunches	150	6*d.* per bunch.
Cocoa - -	499,400 lbs.	10,404	5*d.* per lb.
Cocoanuts - - -	88,772	370	8*s.* 4*d.* per 100.
Coffee - - -	8,908 lbs.	223	6*d.* per lb.
Limes, fresh - -	160 barrels	60	7*s.* 6*d.* per barrel.
„ pickled - -	110 „	46	8*s.* 4*d.* „
Lime juice, concentrated	24,863 gallons	7,459	6*s.* per gallon.
„ raw - -	20,495 „	512	6*d.* „
Manioc farine - -	383 bushels	38	2*s.* per bushel.
Molasses - - -	38,380 gallons	1,439	9*d.* per gallon.
Oils, essential - -	983 „	590	12*s.* „
Oranges - - -	925,900	463	1*s.* per 100.
Rum - - - -	2,283 gallons	143	1*s.* 3*d.* per gallon.
Sugar - - -	2,479 tons	19,832	8*l.* per ton.
Tamarinds - - -	82 cwts.	33	8*s.* per cwt.
Wood, cedar boards -	121 pieces	25	
„ firewood - -	704 cords	352	10*s.* per cord.
„ hardwood -	1,765 pieces	54	
„ logwood - -	27 cords	55	10*s.* per cord.

Shipping

—	Entered.						Cleared.					
	British.		Foreign.		Total.		British.		Foreign.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
					Sailing Vessels.							
1885 -	164	3,878	209	1,699	373	5,577	168	3,778	194	1,583	362	5,361
1886 -	207	4,856	182	1,190	389	6,046	209	4,845	177	1,170	386	6,015
1887 -	222	5,486	135	1,476	357	6,962	222	5,564	137	1,481	359	7,045
					Steamers.							
1885 -	122	131,254	Nil.	Nil.	122	131,254	122	131,254	Nil.	Nil.	122	131,254
1886 -	135	146,181	Nil.	Nil.	135	146,181	135	146,181	Nil.	Nil.	135	146,181
1887 -	123	132,599	Nil.	Nil.	123	132,599	123	132,599	Nil.	Nil.	123	132,599
					Total.							
1885 -	286	135,132	209	1,699	495	136,831	290	135,032	194	1,583	484	136,615
1886 -	342	151,037	182	1,190	524	152,227	344	151,026	177	1,170	521	152,196
1887 -	345	138,085	135	1,476	480	139,561	345	138,163	137	1,481	482	139,644

Criminal.

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The following return shows the number of persons committed to prison for the last three years, and those who were previously convicted :—

Year.	Committed.				Two previous Convictions.				Three or more previous Convictions.			
	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Juvenilee.	Total.
1885 - -	144	73	22	239	18	4	0	22	28	18	0	46
1886 - -	146	80	14	240	15	10	0	25	25	13	0	38
1887 - -	114	110	5	229	14	26	0	40	36	26	0	56

44. The return shows that there were fewer commitments, and that of these a larger proportion than before were old offenders.

Long sentence prisoners are sent to the Central prison at Antigua.

45. A comparison of the convictions for the same period (the detailed return gives this for four years) shows as follows :—

—	1885.	1886.	1887.
Summary Convictions :			
Offences against the person - - -	217	168	173
Prædial larceny - - - -	66	50	65
Offences against property, other than prædial larceny - - - - -	128	140	133
Other offences - - - - -	593	543	577
Superior Court :			
Offences against the person - - -	2	7	7
Prædial larceny - - - -	—	—	—
Offences against property, other than prædial larceny - - - - -	8	10	3
Other offences - - - - -	1	—	—
Total Convictions :			
Summary Court - - - -	1,004	901	948
Supreme Court - - - -	11	17	10
Total - - -	1,015	918	958
Acquittals :			
Summary Court - - - -	568	381	481
Supreme Court - - -	5	8	1
Total - -	573	389	482

General

46. The progress of the Presidency may be said to compare favourably on the whole with the previous year. Although the falling off in sugar cultivation, due to the several causes so well known as to make it needless to recapitulate, must of course have sensibly affected the export, and consequently the import, returns of 1887, there was an increase in the exportation of other products, especially cocoa and limes, which should prove a permanent source of wealth, the climate and soil being most admirably adapted to their cultivation; and though the amount of labour required for the cultivation is but small compared with sugar, it is of such a nature as to give the opportunity of earning wages to many who would be unable from physical and other causes to earn money on sugar estates. There is every reason to hope for an extension of the fruit trade, and if sufficient attention is given to the subject, there is no reason why money should not be made in cattle. Sailing vessels continually pass this Island (calling in for grass and water only) with cargoes of live stock for Barbados from Porto Rico, the value of the cattle imported annually from that place alone into Barbados being about 8,000*l.* The Porto Rico kind of cattle is exceptionally fine; but there is no reason why, with proper care in importing good stock and laying down the best kinds of grasses, Dominica should not compete successfully in this trade. It has certain specific advantages, the proximity,—being only a third of the distance to Leeward, excellent water, an abnormal freedom from flies for a tropical place, good facilities for shipping on the Leeward side, and especially at Prince Ruperts, where vessels could lie and ship safely at all times. A little energy and discretion expended on this trade—which does not require a large initial outlay of capital or the trying delay while waiting for the first return, which so often hampers the tropical planter for years afterwards—would with little risk result successfully.

47. Until, however, the country becomes more opened up by roads, the greater part of it will to all intents and purposes be valueless. Practically, the only inhabited and cultivated portion is the strip of coast line. The extremely broken and precipitous nature of the whole Island, which, however beautiful from the artist's or the traveller's point of view, is decidedly disadvantageous to the settler, precludes any attempt at cultivating large tracts of country; but by judicious selection of lines of road, a great deal of what is now as much terra incognita for all practical purposes as it was when Columbus first sighted the Island, would be made available for cultivation and easy communication with the coast, without which no fertility of soil or success in production is of the slightest value, will be established.

48. A small steam launch was running at somewhat irregular intervals between Roseau and Portsmouth, but she is too small

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and not sufficiently powerful for the work. A strongly built launch, capable of holding a fair amount of cargo and with a fair rate of speed, would do much to develop the trade along the coast. Regularity of communication with the place of export is of great importance to fruit growers.

49. It is also a question which may be taken up when the Presidency is in better financial circumstances, whether a small harbour could not be made on the Windward side of the Island. The advantages which would accrue would be the formation of a depôt for the produce of the neighbouring quarters, and coasters would be able to ship in safety. Great risk and constant loss is at present experienced in shipping off produce in small canoes to the coasters on an unprotected lee shore. If such a harbour were formed, it would become a small port of entry for the trade between the Windward side of the Island and Martinique, which is now carried on to a great extent by smuggling. The matter is one in which it may be found difficult to obtain support at first, but it is one which the Government should not lose sight of, and it would be well if the opinion of an engineer could be obtained as to the feasibility and probable expense of erecting a breakwater in some suitable place on the weather side. Anything which tends to develop this wonderfully fertile Island is worth at least consideration.

50. Dominica has recently been compared by a writer of authority to a toy which the British Government has tired of and thrown aside, and that here at least the Englishman has reason to be ashamed of his flag when he sees the ruined marks of more prosperous days. If the wars with France of a century ago could recur, if navies were once more composed only of sailing ships, and Dominica consequently regained her strategical value; if a body of troops, bringing a considerable local expenditure of Imperial money, were again in garrison at Morue, Bruce, and Prince Ruperts, if coffee and sugar fetched fortune making prices, and other institutions of the "good old days" re-established, no doubt the toy would look gay again, and be once more attractive. But the prosperity of Dominica then was due principally to the accidents of those times; it was essentially ephemeral in its nature, and had no future because the Island did not depend on a thorough development of its rich internal resources, that is, to put it shortly, on itself, and on which it must for the future rely. An Englishman has nothing to be ashamed of in Dominica, nor is it more reasonable to cast a slur on English administration for the waned fortunes of these islands, due to causes far beyond the control of any government, than for the number of tenantless glebes in the midlands, or the disappearance of the whalers from Fiji.

But if the feeling of so-called shame is to be turned into one of satisfaction it can only be by a judicious and liberal encourage-

ment of the united efforts of the Colonists and the Government to exchange existence for vitality, and bring this Island to the position for which nature intended it.

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE,
Dominica, 30th June 1888. President.

MONTSERRAT.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for the PRESIDENCY of MONTSERRAT for the year 1887.

Revenue and Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Total revenue in 1887 - -	5,803	12	5½
Total expenditure in 1887 -	5,718	10	6

The revenue of 1887, which was derived from the same fixed and ordinary sources as in former years, reached a total of 5,803*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.*, thereby exceeding the estimated revenue by the amount of 138*l.* 12*s.* 5½*d.*, and exceeding the total revenue of 1886 by the amount of 780*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*

The increase took place principally in the receipts from Customs and Excise duties and in the Post Office receipts, as appears in the following table:—

Head of Receipts.	Receipts in 1886.			Receipts in 1887.			Amount of Increase in 1887.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import duties - - -	2,089	0	2½	2,583	9	8	494	9	5½
Export duties - - -	391	1	7	520	13	2½	129	11	7½
Excise duties - - -	404	14	8	481	18	2	77	3	6
Post Office receipts - -	93	6	9½	160	3	4½	66	16	7
Total - - -	2,978	3	3	3,746	4	5	768	1	2

The total expenditure, 5,718*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, was in excess of the estimated expenditure, which had been fixed at the sum of 5,576*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* But in the annual estimates no provision had been made for the repayment of a loan of 300*l.* which had been raised on 1st January 1883 in aid of revenue and made payable on 31st December 1887. This loan was paid off from the balance in the treasurer's hands at the close of the year, and was included in the ordinary expenditure.

MONTSERRAT.

Civil Establishment.

A change was made in the Establishment, in the course of the year, by the amalgamation of the offices of President and Treasurer, which offices include between them all the usual departments into which the Government service is divided.

The saving effected in the cost of the Establishment is 350*l.*, being the amount of the salary formerly paid to the Treasurer.

Pensions.

By the death of the Hon. Patrick Burns, formerly Auditor-General of the Leeward Islands, the proportion of his pension payable to the Federal Government by this Presidency, amounting to 15*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*, ceases to be paid, but the Pension List is increased by the pension of the Hon. James Meade, late Treasurer, which has been fixed at 229*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, and is payable wholly from the local Treasury.

Population.

The total number of births registered in the course of the year was 568, the particulars as to sex and legitimacy being as follows:—

Male sex - -	280	568	
Female sex - -	288		
Legitimate - -	358	568	
Illegitimate - -	210		

The number of deaths registered was 182, and marriages 68.

These statistics compare favourably with those of the previous year as given below.

Year.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1886 - -	449	61	205
1887 - -	568	68	182

The public health was fairly good, and no epidemic disease any kind prevailed.

The Yaws disease was prevalent, but, according to the report of the medical officer of No. 2 district, "seems neither to spread nor to decrease."

Vaccination is, fortunately, compulsory under the laws of this Presidency, and was duly performed throughout the past year.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports and exports for the year was considerably in excess of the corresponding value for the previous year (1886), as the following figures show:—

	1886.			1887.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Total value of imports -	21,087	12	6	27,844	15	2
Total value of exports -	20,944	9	8	24,216	1	0

No difference is to be observed in the conditions of trade, imports consisting chiefly of the coarser kinds of food and clothing, and exports of the produce of the Island in sugar, molasses, and lime juice.

In the following tables are shown the principal articles in which the trade of the Island consists, and the total amount of each imported or exported in the year 1886 and 1887 respectively, the relative amounts being expressed by value in sterling instead of quantities.

Table of Imports.

Table showing principal imports in the years 1886 and 1887, the respective values, and countries whence imported.

Articles imported.	In the year 1886.	In the year 1887.	Countries whence imported in 1887.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	
Bread and biscuits	144 5 11	110 1 2	Two-thirds from America, and remainder from United Kingdom and Barbados.
Flour - - -	2,402 8 8	2,569 17 9	From America, Barbados, and other British West Indies.
Beef and pork -	894 8 3	1,026 19 4	Same as above.
Fish, dried and pickled.	2,454 19 6	4,413 11 5	From Barbados chiefly, remainder from America and British West Indies.
Boots and shoes -	732 1 3	570 14 1	From the United Kingdom.
Cotton, linen, and woollen goods.	2,930 0 1	4,453 19 6	From the United Kingdom almost entirely.
Haberdashery, &c.	2,039 17 2	2,134 15 11	Same as above.
Lumber - -	147 8 6	674 12 8	From British West Indies.
Cigars and tobacco	364 19 7	298 6 7	From America chiefly, also from Barbados, and a few cigars from West Indies. Rum from St. Kitts.
Spirituous liquors -	682 14 7	731 5 6	Gin from Holland, other kinds from United Kingdom.

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Table of Exports.

Table showing the principal exports in the years 1886 and 1887, the respective values, and countries to which exported.

Articles exported.	In the year 1886.	In the year 1887.	Countries to which exported.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Sugar (muscovado)	9,550 4 4	13,265 0 0	To America, except a very few barrels.
Molasses - -	841 0 0	1,020 0 0	About half to America, and remainder to West Indian Islands.
Lime juice, raw and concentrated.	8,553 0 0	6,9 5 0 0	United Kingdom chiefly.
Lime fruit, fresh and pickled.	323 3 6	595 1 6	America chiefly.
Lime essence -	282 18 0	633 14 0	United Kingdom.
Tamarinds, preserved.	225 15 0	246 12 8	United Kingdom.
Cattle - - -	360 0 0	785 0 0	British West Indies.
Pigs and sheep -	171 11 6	208 3 2	British West Indies.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police during the year was 591, and the number of persons charged with the commission of offences 631.

Out of the number of 631 persons charged, there were 627 persons brought before the magistrates' courts by arrest, warrant, or summons.

Of the remaining four persons who were charged with offences but never brought before the magistrates' courts, warrants were issued in two instances (the offences being of a serious character, one being a charge of rape and another of indecent assault), but the accused persons made their escape from the Island before the warrants could be executed.

In the other two instances the summonses could not be served for a similar reason.

There was only one conviction in the superior courts, a remarkable decrease as compared with an average rate of 8·7 for the preceding three years; the charge was one of assault, and the sentence three months penal imprisonment.

As regards the inferior courts, the numbers of the persons charged with offences, and of the convictions, and of the acquittals, closely correspond to the numbers of each class in 1886, as the following table shows,

Table showing the number of persons brought before the magistrates' courts, the number of convictions, and the number of acquittals, for the years 1886 and 1887 respectively.

—	Number of Persons summoned before the Magistrate.	Number of summary Convictions.	Number of Persons acquitted.
1886	631	285	334
1887	627	293	333

As regards the nature of the principal offences for which convictions were obtained, the returns for the two years 1886 and 1887 show a marked difference, offences against the person having much diminished in numbers, and prædial larceny having much increased in 1887.

There was only one conviction for larceny other than prædial larceny.

Of the 101 convictions returned in the column for "other offences" in Table III., there were 32 for abusive or indecent language, and 50 for disorderly or indecent conduct, 19 for trivial matters not of a criminal character, and not specified in the above-mentioned table.

The total number of persons committed to the common gaol in 1887 was 93, of whom 59 were men, 26 women, and 8 juveniles, and the daily average number in prison was 4·40.

Of this number 89 were committed for purposes of penal imprisonment, one prisoner for a term of three months (by sentence of the superior court) the remaining 88 for shorter periods.

In consequence of no long sentences having been pronounced there were no prisoners to be sent to the common gaol at Antigua during the year.

Of the 89 persons committed for penal imprisonment, there were 14 who had been previously convicted, viz.:

Seven persons three or more previous convictions.

Three persons two previous convictions.

Four persons one previous conviction.

Of the habitual offenders, one male prisoner had 18 previous convictions recorded against him, another male prisoner 11, and another 7 previous convictions.

The offences of which these prisoners had been previously convicted were nearly all of the same character, viz.: Disorderly or indecent conduct or language, vagrancy, and refusal to perform labour under the Road Act.

General Remarks.

An improvement in the condition both of the revenue and the trade of the Island is observable on comparing the Blue Book returns for 1887 with those of the previous year and this improved

MONTSERRAT. condition of affairs appears likely to be maintained during the present year 1888.

There are, of course, very restricted limits to any possible fluctuation of trade, or to the increase or decrease of revenue in a small island, such as Montserrat, where the manufacture of sugar is carried on with the same appliances as in former years, but without the profits formerly derived from it, and where imports are almost entirely restricted to the most simple necessaries of life. Fortunately for the inhabitants of this Island and other places where the cultivation of the lime has been introduced, lime-juice and the other products of the lime have constantly held a good position in the market. It was by the establishment of this as a new industry that the Messrs. Sturge, of Birmingham, many years ago, gave a fresh impetus to the decaying agriculture of Montserrat and by giving regular employment to numbers of labourers, and building schools and cottages, and farm buildings, converted a part of the Island, which was fast relapsing into a desolate waste of stunted bush into well cultivated estates, and a thriving and pleasant scene of industry and contentment.

The agricultural operations in this quarter of the Island are evidently in a flourishing condition, and the company have lately commenced the cultivation of arrowroot, and have imported the necessary machinery for its manufacture.

The low price of this product, however, in the market, makes it very doubtful whether it will be profitable to manufacture it in large quantities, and its introduction here is mainly in the nature of an experiment, and as an adjunct to their principal industry.

The revenue is, ordinarily, just sufficient to meet the barest necessities of the civil administration, with the interest on a public debt of 4,100*l.* incurred in the year 1879 for supplying water to the town of Plymouth.

But in 1887 there was a sufficient surplus not only to pay off the debt of 300*l.* as already mentioned, but also to provide for two very necessary public works, viz., the laying down water pipes from the reservoir to the poor house which was effected at a cost of 119*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, and the other, the building of a wall and construction of a separate quarter at the gaol for female prisoners, which was effected at a cost of 59*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*

The public works which are required to be undertaken at present are the paving and lighting of the streets, the re-building of the public offices, and extensive repairs to the gaol and the poor house.

It would be useless to anticipate any increase of revenue which would permit of the carrying out of these works, unless special taxation was imposed, but a loan might be raised for the purpose, the interest on which, and sinking fund for its redemption, would be a fair charge upon the ordinary revenue of the Presidency, and it is justifiable to anticipate that the ordinary revenue will, henceforth, be adequate to meet this addition to the annual charges.

Greater conveniences are required for embarking and landing passengers by the Royal Mail Company's and other steamers.

These can only be provided by lengthening the pier and laying down a buoy, with the exhibition of a red light on nights when the Royal Mail steamers are expected.

The steamers of this company come always at night, and lie off at long distances from the shore, but would come in close if a secure anchorage was pointed out by the above-mentioned or any other mode of signalling.

This class of expenditure should be provided for by a special fund raised and set apart for the purpose, and consisting of a wharfage fee payable on every package embarked from, or landed on, the pier or beach within a certain radius of the town of Plymouth.

J. S. CHURCHILL,
President.

17th April 1888.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the PRESIDENCY of the VIRGIN ISLANDS for the year 1887.

1. *Taxes, Duties, &c.*

There is no change to report under this head. The Commissioners of Assessed Taxes sat for the assessment of houses and land for the first time for several years. The amount of tax collected within the year shows an actual increase of some 25*l.* over the total for the year 1886, as shown by the following return:—

1886.				1887.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
House tax (1885) - -	76	18	6	House tax (1886) - -	79	10	0
Do. (1886) - -	3	19	6	Do. (1887) - -	21	2	6
Horse tax (1886*) - -	41	4	6	Horse tax (1887) - -	40	9	6
Land tax (1886) - -	96	13	4	Land tax (1887) - -	102	15	9

The sums remaining unpaid are, however, still considerable, and until the laws that regulate assessment and collection are thoroughly revised, and something practical arrived at that will accord with the present circumstances of the Colony, it is hopeless to look for any but a superficial improvement of what is an exceedingly unsatisfactory condition of things.

A committee of the Legislative Council was appointed in September to consider and report on the state of the tariff, and the desirability of any amendments, and the matter is now under the consideration of the Executive at headquarters.

* The total under this head was 52*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, but of that amount 11*l.* 5*s.* was arrears of 1885.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

In considering the returns of revenue and expenditure it must be remembered that in calculating them, five Mexican dollars, which are worth about 16*s.*, are taken to represent the pound sterling.

RETURN of REVENUE RECEIPTS in each year from 1882 to 1887.

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d*
1,642 18 8	1,708 3 7	1,859 13 8	1,752 15 3	1,447 11 11	1,745 9 0

RETURN of REVENUE RECEIPTS in each year from 1882 to 1887, showing the AMOUNTS collected under the PRINCIPAL HEADS.

—	Customs.	Licenses.	Taxes.	Incidental.	Total.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1882	1,096 1 4	112 11 8	313 19 7	120 6 1	1,642 18 8
1883	1,098 18 11	173 17 4	222 15 7	212 11 9	1,708 3 7
1884	1,247 14 5	188 3 0	132 17 4	290 18 11	1,859 13 8
1885	1,095 1 2	178 0 0	201 6 5	278 7 8	1,752 15 3
1886	823 8 6	169 17 1	230 0 10	224 5 6	1,447 11 11
1887	825 12 7	146 6 1	243 17 9	529 12 7	1,745 9 0

The revenue for 1887 exceeded that of 1886 by 297*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* The customs receipts show an increase in the item of import duty and a decrease in that of tonnage; the former is probably due to the levying of duty on small packages of flour, meal, linens, &c. which paid nothing formerly; the latter is explained by the absence of any large vessels, of which one or two happened to pay dues in 1886. The usual amount of smuggling was carried on. This practice can only be prevented by the friendly co-operation of the Danish Government at St. Thomas. If customs duties are to be retained here at all, something should certainly be done to ensure their even collection, for at present they bid fair to become little else than a tax upon honesty. I attach a return which may be of some interest as showing the exact proportion in which the inhabitants of the various islands contribute to the up-keep of the Government.

The amount of arrears collected was 131*l.* 18*s.*, against 46*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* in 1886 which result is attributable to matters being more looked into.

Under the head of Post Office there is an increase of 90*l.* 11*s.*, which is to be explained by the large sale of postage stamps to dealers and collectors. One single purchase was made for an amount of over 50*l.*

—	Population estimated.	Import Duty.	Export Duty.	Tonnage Duty.	Boat Licenses.	Liquor Licenses.	Dog Licenses.	Marriage Licenses.	House Tax.	Land Tax.	Horse Tax.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Virgin Gorda - -	786	45 13 4	54 5 5	3 17 7	22 11 5	7 0 0	0 9 0	—	22 17 0	*21 9 10	1 4 0	179 7 7
Anegada - - -	680	29 17 7	40 18 7	1 17 6	14 18 6	2 0 0	0 3 0	—	8 1 6	—	—	97 16 8
Jost Van Dykes - -	346	0 17 1½	5 6 10	1 9 7	11 8 10	—	—	—	3 12 0	5 16 4	—	28 10 8½
Salt Island - - -	54	3 8 10	0 1 0	0 17 4	3 3 3	—	0 3 0	—	1 12 0	—	—	9 5 5
Peter Island - - -	67	1 12 3	0 2 3	0 12 0	4 13 1	—	—	—	0 4 0	0 11 2	—	7 14 9
Tortola - - -	3,067	291 3 6½	317 10 3	26 1 7	54 0 0	18 0 0	6 6 0	1 10 0	64 6 0	†74 18 5	39 5 6	893 1 3½
Total - -	5,000	372 12 8	418 4 4	34 15 7	110 15 1	27 0 0	7 1 0	1 10 0	100 12 6	102 15 9	40 9 6	1,215 16 5
												£ s. d.
Arrears - - - - -												131 18 0
Fines and fees - - - -												74 13 0
Post office - - - - -												145 13 9
Rent - - - - -												2 1 8
Road commutation - - -												1 8 0
Miscellaneous - - - -												173 18 2
Total revenue - £												1,745 9 0

* 16*l.* 5*s.* of this amount is paid by one party Mr. Godden, of London.

† Sundry small islets and cays are included in this total.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The miscellaneous receipts were 173*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, against 43*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* for the previous year. Of this amount 157*l.* was on account of the purchase money of an escheated estate paid some time ago and now ordered to be carried to general revenue. On the other hand, there was no duty on wrecked goods, such as was placed under this head in 1886.

RETURN of ANNUAL EXPENDITURE from 1882 to 1887.

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,613 6 9	1,726 12 7	1,874 1 1	1,925 12 3	1,676 0 3	2,088 8 2

As shown by the above return the expenditure amounted to 2,088*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* or 412*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* more than in 1886. This comparatively large total may be thus explained. The amount under President shows an increase of 110*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*, the result of the appointment of a new officer on full salary. The increase of 67*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* under poor house and hospital is due to the fact that the 80*l.* annually paid for maintenance of lunatics at Antigua is duly included in the 1887 total, while only 23*l.* 8*s.* appeared in that of 1886. Of the large item 140*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* for miscellaneous services, 83*l.* is for the passage of the new President from Sierra Leone, 11*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* for expenses in connexion with the representation of the Presidency at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and 3*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* in connexion with the Jubilee. These are quite exceptional items. 22*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* represents the loss incurred in the exchange of Mexican silver for remittances to Antigua and England.

The amount due from this Presidency as its share of the Federal expenditure for the year, amounting to 162*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, is also taken into account, which appears never to have been the case before.

The Crown Agents' expenditure is this year for the first time classified under the proper heads of service, and the Post Office account with the Imperial Government is also incorporated.

298*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* is accounted for under the head of arrears. Of this sum 8*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* was local, the remainder being debt due to the Federal Government for the past year's contribution, and for the balance of the Leeward Islands Money Order account and the Antigua Lunatics account, which it was called upon to defray.

3. *Public Debt.*

RETURN of ASSETS and LIABILITIES of the PRESIDENCY of the VIRGIN ISLANDS on the 31st December 1887.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cash in hand, 1st Jan. 1888	76	3	0	Federal contribution -	162	17	4
Bills maturing - - -	85	0	0	Federal Government, for advances made - -	59	18	2½
Excess of liabilities - -	682	12	10	Prisoners and lunatics, Antigua - - -	41	14	0
				Crown Agents - -	134	18	7
				Imperial Post Office -	5	13	7½
				Unrepresented estates -	382	3	8
				Deposit - - - -	7	14	9
				Africans - - - -	20	4	5
				Leeward Islands' Money Orders, Dec. Quarter, paid by Federal Government - - - -	28	11	3
	843	15	10		843	15	10

The above return shows the liabilities of the Presidency at the close of 1887. It is unlikely that any large claim will ever be made in connexion with the item under the head of unrepresented estates; the amount, however, is retained in the schedule of liabilities pending further instructions. The same applies to the deposit of 7*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, with regard to which no definite information is obtainable, and which has been regularly carried over for many years past. The sum under the head of Africans represents the difference between the amount drawn from the Imperial Government and the amount actually expended. It does not seem clear whether the Presidency will eventually be called to account for this sum or not.

4. *Public Works.*

The total sum expended was 25*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* The only work of any importance was the removal to the mainland, and re-construction of the West End Customs Office, its situation on Frenchman's Cay being inconvenient, and involving unnecessary expense.

A flagstaff was erected at Road Town, there having been for some time none at all, and the boat shed, which was in a disreputable state, was repaired and painted.

5. *Legislation.*

Three Ordinances were passed during the year; the Supply Ordinance, a formal Ordinance to declare certain subjects within

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

the competency of the Federal Legislature, and an Ordinance repealing the Act by which Presidents were exempted from local taxation.

6. *Councils and Assemblies.*

There is no change to record under this head.

7. *Civil Establishment.*

Mr. Edward Cameron, Assistant Colonial Secretary and Treasurer of Sierra Leone, was appointed President in February, and arrived in Tortola on the 24th May, succeeding Mr. F. A. Pickering, the President's clerk, who had held the acting appointment since the death of Mr. Dyett in July 1884.

The services of a constable boatman at West End were dispensed with towards the end of the year, consequent on the removal of the office to the mainland; 15*l.* per annum will be thus saved.

Mr. W. H. Bowen, lay reader at Virgin Gorda, was appointed revenue officer at that island in August, *vice* W. S. O'Neale, deceased.

Towards the end of the year Mr. Pickering, the President's clerk, and Mr. Crandall, the Registrar and Provost Marshal asked and obtained permission to retire from the service on pensions. In accordance with a law passed by the Federal Council, the duties of the latter are in future to be discharged by the President without remuneration.

8. *Population and Vital Statistics.*

There is no improvement to report under this head. The following table gives the statistics for the year:—

District.		Births.		Marriages.	Deaths.
		Legitimate.	Illegitimate.		
A.	Virgin Gorda - - - - -	15	7	Nil.	16
B.	Anegada - - - - - -	20	5	5	18
C.	Beef Island, Buck Island, East End (Tortola) - - - - -	15	6	2	7
D.	Tortola, Salt Island, Peter's Island -	39	34	11	65
E.	West End (Tortola), Thatch Island, Frenchman's Cay - - -	5	14	4	14
F.	Jost Van Dykes - - - -	7	9	1	11
		101	75	23	131

9. *Public Health.*

The health of the community throughout 1887 was excellent, and there were no cases of infectious disease reported.

10. *Ecclesiastical.*

The salaries granted to the chaplain of the gaol and poor house, and to the sexton of the parish church, were struck out of the 1888 estimates, and are no longer paid. The saving effected is 22*l.**

11. *Education.*

The following is taken from the report of the Acting Inspector-General of Schools :—

"Of the nine schools in this Presidency four only are aided by the Government. These are all in the third class, and they were examined by the Inspector-General in February and March.

"The Anegada school has taken the highest average marks for reading and arithmetic, and Road Town gained the first place for writing."

It is to be regretted that in the Islands of Jost van Dykes and Peter's Island there is no school of any kind; the children in these places are thus growing up in complete ignorance.

12. *Currency, Banking, Weights and Measures.*

Mexican silver was received and paid out throughout the year at the rate of 4*s.* to the dollar, and very little other money was handled. Full reports on the subject of currency were made, and a change has since been effected. Further action will, however, have to be taken before a thoroughly satisfactory solution can be arrived at of this vexed question of currency.

There is no inspection of weights and measures in this Presidency.

13. *Imports and Exports.*

RETURN showing the VALUE in sterling of the yearly IMPORTS for the years 1882 to 1887.

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
£ 5,982	£ 7,302	£ 7,239	£ 5,846	£ 3,603	£ 3,039

* These amounts have since been replaced in the estimates by order of the Secretary of State.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The value of imports for 1887 appears in the returns lower than the values for previous years. It is necessary to explain that it has hitherto been the custom to value barrels of flour at 2*l.*, whereas the real average value is about $8 Mexican, or 1*l.* 6*s.* sterling. The value of the flour imported in 1886 is put down at 1,617*l.*; in 1887 at 1,146*l.* The number of barrels of flour paying duty was 917½, and of cornmeal 1,542, against 810¼ and 92 respectively in 1886. This result is chiefly due to the fact that for the latter half of the year small packages of flour and meal, containing from 2 and 3 to 50 lbs., were taken account of and duty collected on them. This had never before been done, and the change created a great deal of discontent. Formerly there were a number of persons who regularly imported several barrels within the year in this way, escaping all payment. In some cases also they were bread sellers, and were of course able to undersell those of their neighbours who imported their stock by the barrel and had to pay for it.

The quantity of rum and gin brought in is a good deal less than in the previous year, being 269 and 182 gallons respectively, against 410 and 350.

The values affixed to the various articles cannot be altogether relied on, especially in the case of those paying specific duty.

RETURN showing the VALUE in sterling of the yearly EXPORTS for the years 1882 to 1887.

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
£ 4,966	£ 5,025	£ over 5,000	£ 4,915	£ 4,103	£ 4,494

The chief articles of export and their respective values were :—

	£
Live stock - - - -	3,543
Charcoal - - - - -	473
Potatoes - - - - -	25
Cotton - - - - -	25
Firewood - - - -	8
Hardwood - - - -	245
Salt - - - - -	44
Sugar - - - - -	109
Sugar cane - - - -	9
	4,481

The following return shows the various kinds of live stock and the number of each exported in each of the last four years:—

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Cattle - - -	481	440	348	376
Calves - - -	741	673	649	699
Goats - - - - -	1,103	1,203	800	801
Sheep - - - - -	368	307	266	240
Pigs - - - - -	898	837	806	704
Horses - - - - -	21	7	7	12
Mules - - - - -	2	1	1	5

A few live stock and a little wood, value under 100*l.*, went to Antigua and Saint Kitts; all the rest to the Danish Islands. Low prices for stock at St. Thomas are still the rule, and there is little hope for improvement in this respect.

No account is taken in the returns of the value of the fish export.

14. *Shipping.*

1,581 vessels were entered during the year, with a total tonnage of 4,505. Of these 485 entered at the Road Town office, and 1,096 at the office at West End. All but two were from the Danish West Indies. The total number of vessels cleared was 1,744, with a tonnage of 4,557. Of these, 1,741 were bound to the Danish Islands, 2 to the British Colonies, and 1 to St. Martins. 393 cleared at Road Town and 1,351 at West End.

No steam vessels of any description touched here during the year. His Excellency the Administrator-in-Chief and suite paid a short visit in October, coming in a schooner from Antigua.

15. *Agriculture.*

The conditions are the same as reported last year.

16. *Manufactures, Mines.*

In November the agent of Mr. Godden arrived from Curacoa, *viâ* St. Thomas, in a schooner, accompanied by a mineral expert and a few workmen. They remained some three months at Virgin Gorda, during which time an inspection of Mr. Godden's land was made and specimens taken. Nothing has been heard since their departure as to whether any further operations are intended.

17. *Prisons.*

Fifteen persons were committed to prison during the year, of which number 11 were for purposes of penal imprisonment. Of the sentences in the magistrate's court only one was for over three months.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

One lunatic, of whose recovery there is no prospect, remained in the gaol during the year, and a few other cases were admitted and treated there by the medical officer.

18. *Criminal Statistics.*

Of the 73 cases that came before the magistrate 15 were discharged for want of prosecution or evidence, and 21 dismissed. Thirty-four persons were summarily convicted, and three cases were sent on for trial.

The Supreme Court held a sitting in December, the first since 1884, where two prisoners were found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for one year and six months respectively; in the third case a verdict of not guilty was returned; of the crimes, two were wounding with intent, and the third indecent assault.

The charges for service of summons and mileage hitherto exacted in the magistrate's court are now no longer demanded, and the result has been to appreciably increase the number of cases for the current year.

The civil cases were few in number, and presented no special features.

19. *Hospitals.*

The following is a table of cases of each kind of disease treated in the hospital with the number of deaths from each such disease:—

Diseases treated.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.
Old age and debility	7	3
Chronic ulcers (syphilitic)	7	2
Epilepsy	1	—
Syphilis	2	1
Asthma	1	—
Bronchitis	1	1
General dropsy	1	1
Intermittent fever	2	—
Epithelioma	1	—
Arthritis	1	—
Gun-shot wounds	1	—
Incised wounds	1	—
Elephantiasis	1	—
Rheumatism	1	1
Blindness	1	—
	29	9

The daily average of inmates was five males and six females.

20. *General Remarks.*

I regret that I am unable to make any satisfactory report as to the state of prospects of the Presidency.

The majority of the young men continue to quit the islands, there being no work for them to do. There is no capital to develop whatever resources it may possess, and there is no possibility of a change in this respect so long as the present condition of isolation is maintained.

The Royal Mail steamers which arrive every fortnight at St. Thomas, lie there five days before starting on the return trip to Barbados. A few hours would suffice for the passage to Tortola and back. The Presidency can, however, offer no inducement for them to come here, while it is equally out of its power to pay them to do so.

The only market the Virgin Islands have is St. Thomas, and the gradual decadence of that place must necessarily exercise a depressing effect here.

Turning to the question of the Government of this Dependency, I am of opinion that the resources of the Virgin Islands are unequal to the task of maintaining, on a footing of sufficient respectability, an administration based on the present lines.

Whether assistance should be afforded from outside or an altogether lower scale substituted is a question to be decided by those in authority after examination into the modern circumstances and requirements of the place.

The state of things here has long been the occasion for unflattering remarks in the foreign island with which this Presidency is so closely connected, and I think it is fitting that some attempt at re-organisation should be made.

(Signed) EDWARD J. CAMERON,
President.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 23.

MALTA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1888.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
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1888.

[C.—5249.—20.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	,,	2
3	Gambia - - -	,,	1
4	Victoria - - -	,,	2½
5	New Zealand - -	,,	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	,,	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	,,	1
11	Straits Settlements -	,,	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turk's Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	,,	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	,,	1
18	St. Helena - - -	,,	½
19	Barbados - - -	,,	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 1887).	,,	1
21	Bahamas - - -	,,	½
22	Labuan - - -	,,	½

No. 23.

MALTA.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4842]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794].]

Sir J. LINTORN SIMMONS to LORD KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, July 16, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Malta Blue Book for 1887, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's report on the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
July 7, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for 1887:—

1. The revenue and expenditure may be tabulated thus:—

Revenue.

——	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
1884 - - -	132,850	79,719	212,569
1885 - - -	135,907	77,404	213,311
1886 - - -	142,069	81,684	223,753
	410,826	238,807	649,633
Average - -	136,942	79,602	216,544
1887 - - -	145,786	73,399	219,185
Increase - -	8,844	—	2,641
Decrease - -	—	6,203	—

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The following table compares the actual revenue for 1887 with that of 1886 :—

——	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
	£	£	£
1886 - - -	142,069	81,684	223,753
1887 - - -	145,786	73,399	219,185
Increase -	3,717	—	—
Decrease -	—	8,285	4,568

The following table compares the revenue in 1887 with the revenue as estimated :—

——	Estimate.	Actual Revenue.	Excess.	Deficit.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - - - -	134,000 0 0	145,786 14 0	11,786 14 0	—
Quarantine dues - - -	—	247 11 4	247 11 4	—
Land revenue - - - -	15,000 0 0	14,593 11 7	—	406 8 5
Rents, exclusive of land - -	23,290 0 0	23,257 16 9	—	32 3 3
Licenses - - - - -	3,010 0 0	3,096 8 4	86 8 4	—
Postage - - - - -	7,530 0 0	8,457 15 4	927 15 4	—
Fines, forfeitures - - -	5,490 0 0	5,607 3 1	117 3 1	—
Fees of office - - - -	2,240 0 0	2,415 5 1	175 5 1	—
Reimbursements in aid of expenses -	1,930 0 0	3,132 19 7	1,202 19 7	—
Miscellaneous receipts - - -	1,620 0 0	2,112 8 7	492 8 7	—
Interest - - - - -	7,900 0 0	2,600 14 7	—	5,299 5 5*
Water dues - - - -	—	4,147 13 3	4,147 13 3	—
Special receipts - - - -	3,820 0 0	3,728 18 11	—	91 1 1
Total - - -	205,830 0 0	219,185 0 5	19,183 18 7	5,828 18 2
	—	—	5,828 18 2	—
Actual xcess - -	—	—	13,355 0 5	—

* Monte interest not brought to account till 1888. Interest accrued due to depositors in savings bank during 1887 credited to them during the year, instead of waiting, as heretofore, till the next year.

The following table compares the revenue received in 1887 with that received in 1886:—

	Amount collected in 1886.	Amount collected in 1887.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	142,068 11 6	145,786 14 0	3,718 2 6	—
Quarantine dues	393 4 6	247 11 4½	—	145 13 1½
Land revenue	15,340 10 6½	14,593 11 7½	—	746 18 11½
Rent, exclusive of land	24,594 0 3	27,405 10 0	2,811 9 9	—
Licenses	3,059 18 4	3,096 8 4	36 10 0	—
Postage	8,635 9 8	8,457 15 4	—	177 14 4
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	5,627 18 2½	5,607 3 1½	—	20 15 1½
Fees of office	2,564 14 8	2,415 5 1	—	149 9 7
Reimbursements in aid of expenses	3,112 11 6½	3,132 19 6½	20 8 0½	—
Miscellaneous receipts	540 10 6½	2,112 8 7	1,571 18 0¾	—
Interest	13,979 17 2¾	2,600 14 7	—	11,379 2 7¾
Special receipts	3,835 15 5¾	3,728 18 10¾	—	106 16 7
Total	223,753 2 5	219,185 0 5	8,158 8 4	12,726 10 4

The amount received under head "Interest" was 11,672*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, of this amount 9,071*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* were passed to the credit of the Savings Bank, and the remainder, 2,600*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*, to the credit of general revenue.

Expenditure.

	Salaries and Allowances.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
	£	£	£
1884	80,606	129,189	209,795
1885	87,712	138,633	226,345
1886	90,473	180,934	271,407
	258,791	448,756	707,547
Average	86,264	149,585	235,849
1887	88,625	*150,562	*239,187
Increase	2,361	977	3,338
Decrease	—	—	—

* Including 5,362*l.* advanced from the Treasury in 1887, but not brought to account till 1888.

The following table compares the actual expenditure for 1887 with that of 1886 :—

	Salaries and Allowances.	Other Expenditure.	Total.
	£	£	£
1886 - - -	90,473	180,934	271,407
1887 - - -	88,625	*150,562	*239,187
Decrease - -	1,848	30,372	32,220

* Including 5,362*l.* advanced from the Treasury in 1887, but not brought to account till 1888.

The following table compares the actual expenditure in 1887 with the estimate of expenditure :—

	Estimate.	Actual Expenditure.	Excess.	Saving.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments - - - -	90,414 6 5	88,625 4 1	—	1,789 2 4
Exclusive of establishment - -	131,591 13 10½	145,200 3 10½	13,608 10 0	—
	222,006 0 3½	233,825 7 11½	13,608 10 0	—
Deduct saving - - - -	—	—	1,789 2 4	—
	222,006 0 3½	233,825 7 11½	11,819 7 8	—
Add advances made in 1887 to be covered by votes in 1888 - -	—	5,361 16 9½	5,361 16 9½	—
Totals - - -	222,006 0 3½	239,187 4 9	17,181 4 5½	—

The following is a comparison of the expenditure for 1887 with the expenditure for 1886 :—

	Expenditure in 1886.	Expenditure in 1887.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments.				
Civil - - - - -	10,380 1 0	10,312 4 0	—	67 17 0
Revenue - - - - -	8,603 14 7	8,198 0 2	—	405 14 5
Legislative - - - -	200 0 0	200 0 0	—	—
Judicial - - - - -	10,280 16 3	9,637 3 11	—	643 12 4
Police - - - - -	22,763 9 8	20,707 5 2	—	2,056 4 6
Prisons - - - - -	1,240 0 4	1,251 6 1	11 5 9	—
Ecclesiastical - - - -	1,003 0 3	676 15 0	—	326 5 3
Educational - - - -	14,873 2 1	14,489 2 10	—	383 19 3

	Expenditure in 1886.	Expenditure in 1887.	Increase.	Decrease.
Establishments—cont.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charitable	9,210 18 11	9,928 12 9	—	717 13 10
Monte and savings bank	967 13 9	—	—	—
Clerical establishment	10,716 10 6	10,723 18 4	7 7 10	—
Messengers' do.	—	2,350 15 10	—	—
Crown Agents	234 7 6	150 0 0	—	84 7 6
Total	90,473 14 10	88,625 4 1	18 13 7	4,685 14 1
Exclusive of Establishments.				
Civil	1,122 12 8	571 15 3	—	550 17 5
Revenue	8,127 4 8	7,327 10 11	—	799 13 9
Legislative	392 6 2	270 16 7	—	121 9 7
Judicial	1,731 13 8	2,427 17 8	696 4 0	—
Police	1,551 1 11½	1,481 19 8	—	69 2 3½
Prisons	2,098 13 6	1,939 16 1	—	158 17 5
Ecclesiastical	558 16 10	590 1 4	31 4 6	—
Educational	1,661 2 0	1,588 3 3	—	72 18 9
Charitable	23,132 19 6	23,285 5 5	152 5 11	—
Monte and savings bank	4,908 8 11	—	—	—
Pensions	13,738 8 10	14,263 10 10	525 2 0	—
Works and buildings	73,686 16 1¾	39,531 2 0½	—	34,155 14 1¼
Roads, streets, &c.	27,670 18 5¼	19,275 4 2¼	—	8,395 14 3
Rent	1,106 6 5	1,234 2 11	127 16 6	—
Interest	1,885 15 4	1,887 18 8	2 3 4	—
Burthens on property	1,710 3 10	1,753 9 0	43 5 2	—
Drawbacks and refund of duties	3,224 13 0	3,132 19 0	—	91 14 0
Stationery	977 13 11	1,000 19 4	23 5 5	—
Transport	1,960 5 1	1,828 18 3	—	131 6 10
Military contribution	5,000 0 0	5,000 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous services	4,687 4 5¾	*22,170 10 3¼	17,483 5 9½	—
Total	271,407 0 2¼	239,187 4 9	19,084 12 7½	44,547 8 4¾

* 16,547*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* of which incurred in connexion with the epidemic of cholera.

The following is an account of the expenditure incurred by the Treasury during the year in connexion with the epidemic of cholera:—Of the total of 16,547*l.* expended on this service during 1887 about 8,000*l.* was expended in relief works and in laying on a supply of pure water to certain villages which had been severely attacked by cholera, and 3,521*l.* was paid to the Cholera Committee,

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leaving about 5,000*l.*, which was expended on cholera hospitals and on disinfection and segregation, &c.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Expended during 1887 as per detail annexed	13,025	9	3
Add advanced from Treasury to Cholera Committee	3,521	18	1
	16,547	7	4
Add other charges, accounted for in 1888, say	500	0	0
	17,047	7	4

Detail of 13,025*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Receiver-General	63	11	9
Chief Secretary's Office	7	4	0
Police Department	2,517	6	5
Public Works Department	5,182	16	6½
Waterworks Department	3,212	3	4½
Corradino Prison		14	6
Education Office	5	11	7
Charitable Institutions	1,720	5	3
Gozo	315	15	10
	13,025	9	3

Classification.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Wages and salaries	1,871	18	7
Ecclesiastical	365	0	11
Provisions, fuel &c.	495	17	3
Bedding, clothing, utensils, &c.	383	7	1
Disinfections and medicines	1,334	0	9
Immediate relief	26	8	3
Waterworks	3,218	6	3½
Relief works	4,783	9	3½
Petty and incidental expenses	48	1	0
Transport	498	19	10
	13,025	9	3

The following is an analysis of the excess incurred.

It will be seen that had it not been for the epidemic of cholera, the estimate of expenditure would not have been exceeded. Net excess, as shown in table at—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d
Page 6 - -	17,181	4	5½			
Revotes - -	1,463	4	6			
				18,644	8	11½
Deduct excesses recouped, viz. :—						
House services -	2,149	3	3			
Quarantine guards -	160	17	2			
Copyists' fees -	120	12	11			
				2,430	13	4
Real excess - -				16,213	13	5½
Cholera expenses - - -				16,547	7	4
Excess as above - - -				16,213	15	7½
Showing, less unforeseen cholera expenses, a saving of - -				333	11	8½

Legislation.

3. The Council of Government met for the session of 1886–1887 on 11th November 1886.

The following legislation was effected during 1887 :—

Ordinances.

No. I.

To amend Article 12 of Ordinance No. VII. of 1886, intituled "To amend the law relating to the election of the elective members "of the Council of Government of Malta."

No. II.

For applying a sum not exceeding 6,833*l.* 4*s.* 5½*d.* to the service of the year 1886.

No. III.

For applying a sum not exceeding 179,322*l.* 4*s.* 0½*d.* to the service of the year 1887.

Ordinance No. II. is the supplementary Appropriation Ordinance for 1886 and Ordinance No. III. is the Appropriation Ordinance for 1887 ; Ordinance No. I. makes a necessary but otherwise unimportant alteration in the Electoral Law.

Civil Establishment.

4. The only changes in offices during the year were the appointment of the Librarian of the Public Libraries, Dr. A. A. Caruana, as Director of Education vice Mr. Savona, who resigned his post, and the appointment of Dr. Filippo Vassallo as Assistant Librarian and Secretary to the Library Committee at a salary of 150*l.* per annum.

Population.

5. The estimated population of the Islands on the 31st December 1886 was 159,231. The natural increase during 1887, as represented by the excess of births over deaths, notwithstanding the epidemic of cholera, was 1,448. The population may therefore be estimated at 160,679 on the 31st December 1887.

The return of births and deaths was as follows :—

——	Males.	Females.	Total.
Births - - - -	3,296	2,995	6,291
Deaths - - - -	2,418	2,425	4,843
Excess in births - -	878	570	1,448

Savings Bank.

6. The amount of deposits in the savings bank was as follows :—

——	1887.	Depositors.	1886.	Depositors.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
In Malta - -	360,063 11 4¾	4,647	352,504 9 11	4,654
In Gozo - -	28,968 6 7	486	23,748 17 11	474
Total -	389,031 17 11¾	5,133	376,253 7 10	5,128
Interest accrued due during 1887 and unpaid - -	5,215 12 6	—	—	—
Grand Total -	394,247 10 5¾	—	—	—

showing an increase of 79,994*l.* 2*s.* 7¾*d.*, and five depositors, and an average of 76⅘*l.* per depositor, against 73*l.* in 1886, and 71*l.* in 1885.

The following is a general view of the deposits remaining on 31st December 1887 :—

No.	Classification.				Amount.		
					£	s.	d.
17	Under 5*s.* - - - - -				1	14	7¼
1,090	„ 25*l.* - - - - -				13,288	9	1½
1,269	„ 50*l.* - - - - -				39,968	8	0½
768	„ 75*l.* - - - - -				43,172	13	4¾
1,905	Of and under 100*l.* - - - -				184,463	11	1
5,049					280,894	16	3
		£	s.	d.			
84	Capitals and portions of capitals not bearing interest in 1887 -	5,899	2	3½			
	Portions not liable to interest being above 100*l.* - -	102,237	19	5¼			
					108,137	1	8¾
					389,031	17	11¾
	Interest accrued due during 1887 and unpaid -				5,215	12	6
5,133					394,247	10	5¾

The balance sheet of the Savings Bank on 31st December 1887, and the profit and loss account of the Institution for 1887, are as follows :—

Balance Sheet of the Savings Bank on 31st December 1887.

DR.				CR.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Treasury banking account -	31,657	16	1	Depositors - - -	394,247	10	5¾
Monte di Pietà - - -	57,150	0	0	Malta Branch (Gozo) account current - - - -	50	15	7
Cash - - - -	50	15	7	Profit and loss - - -	4,611	1	2¼
Investments - - -	310,000	0	0				
Gozo Branch (Malta) account current - - - -	50	15	7				
	398,909	7	3		398,909	7	3

Savings Bank.—Profit and Loss Account.

DR.				CR.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Establishment expenses :— Salaries for 1887 - -	297	19	10	By Depositors account :— Recovered interests -	88	0	9
„ Sundry office expenses -	171	16	2¾	„ Error in Gozo account -	0	0	1
„ Rent account - - -	108	0	0	„ Books account - -	6	8	3
„ Interest paid and due for 1887 and balance for 1886 -	5,503	11	2	„ Dividends from Consols and interest from Monte -	10,597	19	4
	6,081	7	2¾				
„ Balance - - -	4,611	1	2¼				
	10,692	8	5		10,692	8	5

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Monte di Pietà.

The following are the returns of the Monte di Pietà.

It will be seen that on 31st December 45,302*l.* was outstanding as advances on pawns.

Balance Sheet of the Monte di Pietà on 31st December 1887.

DR.	£	s.	d.	CR.	£	s.	d.
Landed property	61,628	12	2	Stock	41,628	12	2
Cash	128	2	10	Loans	7,551	13	11½
Pawning transactions	45,302	9	9¾	Savings bank	57,150	0	0
Treasury banking account	1,827	9	9	Surplus on sales of pawns	1,917	15	7¾
Gozo Branch (Malta) account current	38	10	6	Malta Branch (Gozo) account current	38	10	6
				Profit and loss	638	12	9½
	108,925	5	0¾		108,925	5	0¾

Monto di Pietà.—Profit and Loss Account.

DR.	£	s.	d.	CR.	£	s.	d.
To Establishment expenses:— Salaries for 1887	1,298	5	0	By Interest account:— Interest received in 1887	1,839	8	4
„ Sundry office expenses	74	6	5½	„ Revenue from landed property	1,898	0	0
„ Rent account	10	0	0				
„ Interest paid in 1887	1,716	4	1				
	3,098	15	6½				
„ Balance, profit	638	12	9½				
	3,737	8	4		3,737	8	4

Education.

7. The following is a list of the Government educational establishments:—

	No. of Scholars.	
	1887.	1886.
The University, attended by	45	43
The Lyceum, attended by	367	403
Two Secondary Schools, attended by	127	129
Twenty-five Primary Schools, attended by	8,141	8,341
Eight Infant Schools, attended by	1,016	1,041
Total	9,696	9,957

The falling off is due to the prevalence of cholera.

The expenditure of the educational establishments amounted to 16,520*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and the fees paid by the scholars for attendance in the University and Lyceum to 492*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*

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During the year a radical change was made in the management of the Education Department. A Committee appointed by the Governor to inquire into certain matters connected with education recommended, amongst other things, that the Director of Education instead of being, subject of course to the Governor, in independent charge of all the educational establishments of the island, should be guided, with reference to the discipline and management of the University, by the recommendations of a Senate to be appointed for that purpose, and that no changes should be made in the management of the Lyceum or primary schools without first consulting the Senate. The recommendations were adopted by the Governor and by the Secretary of State and are now in force. They embody certain recommendations never hitherto carried into effect, which were made in 1878 by Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.B., Resident Commissioner of National Education in Ireland, who had been entrusted by Her Majesty's Government with the duty of making a special report on the educational institutions of Malta. The suggestion in the Committee that those recommendations should be considered led to the resignation of Mr. Savona, the Director of Education. Dr. A. A. Caruana, the Librarian, formerly Rector of the University was appointed to succeed Mr. Savona. I am glad to say that since the recommendations of the Committee have been carried into effect the political agitation on the subject of education, which had been rife for several years, has entirely ceased, and that no difficulty has been made by the Council in providing for the necessary expenditure on education.

In referring to this subject I ought to state that many other recommendations made by Sir P. Keenan had been followed by Mr. Savona, and that the Governor in accepting that gentleman's resignation, took the opportunity of acknowleging the valuable services which he had rendered to the cause of education in Malta.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

	£		£	
8. The following is the value of cargoes imported and actually landed at this port -	767,521	in 1887 against	706,887	in 1886.
Value of cargoes which merely touched at this port and were re-exported in the same bottoms - -	9,498,131	against	11,401,300	„
viz.:—				
From the U. Kingdom -	121,241	„	109,413	„
From the British Colonies	690,583	„	2,155,000	„
From H.M.'s ships in port	738	„	1,192	„
From foreign countries -	9,453,090	„	9,842,582	„
	10,265,652		12,108,582	„

showing a decrease of 1,842,535*l.*

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	£		£	
9. The value of exports from portions of cargoes which were actually landed at this port - -	28,787	in 1887 against	42,769	in 1886.
Value of exports of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottoms -	9,507,266	against	11,370,798	,,
viz. :—				
To the United Kingdom	2,376,635	,,	3,070,234	,,
,, British Colonies -	2,832,885	,,	2,322,094	,,
,, H.M.'s ships -	4,565	,,	6,301	,,
,, foreign countries -	4,321,968	,,	6,014,938	,,
	9,536,053		11,413,567	

showing a decrease of 1,877,514*l.*

Shipping.

10. The shipping movement in the port during the last three years is shown in the following return :—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1884 - - -	3,851	4,383,756	1,530	133,742
1885 - - -	4,424	5,140,817	1,381	128,671
1886 - - -	3,605	4,349,015	1,257	97,405
	11,880	13,873,588	4,168	359,818
Average - - -	3,960	4,624,529	1,389	119,939
1887 - - -	2,858	3,310,039	1,046	93,987
Decrease - -	1,102	1,314,490	343	25,952

The following table compares the actual arrivals in 1887 with that of 1886 :—

Year.	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1886 - - - -	3,605	4,349,015	1,257	97,405
1887 - - - -	2,858	3,310,039	1,046	93,987
Decrease - -	747	1,038,976	211	3,418

The decrease is mainly due to the prevalence of cholera in Malta from August to November, the imposition of quarantine on arrivals from Malta in most of the Mediterranean ports and consequent cessation, for the time, of the visits of passing vessels. There is, however, reason to believe that recent improvements in the marine steam-engine, which have conduced to great economy in the consumption of coal, have contributed to the diminution of the numbers of vessels calling here on their way to and from the Suez Canal, as many steamers are now able to make the voyage from England to Port Said direct, and *vice versâ*, without coaling on the way.

Criminal Statistics.

11. The following is a statement of offences punishable under local laws, showing the number of accusations and of persons brought before the courts by the police in 1887 :—

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of Persons.	Acquitted.	Condemned.
Crimes against public tranquillity - -	134	157	19	138
„ affecting public credit - -	2	3	—	3
„ „ the good order of families	43	46	7	39
„ against the person - -	556	797	93	704
„ „ property - - -	276	342	89	253
CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Affecting public order - - -	1,891	3,286	318	2,968
Against the person - - - -	499	708	126	582
„ property - - - -	72	143	17	126
OTHER CONTRAVENTIONS.				
Under special Ordinances - - -	735	970	52	918
POLICE LAWS.				
Contraventions - - - -	2,918	4,393	368	4,025
Total - -	7,126	10,845	1,089	9,756

viz. :—

Maltese - - -	10,705	in 1887,	against 11,050	in 1886.
English - - -	118	„ „	180	„
Foreigners - -	22	„ „	7	„
	10,845	„ „	11,237	„

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The number of persons committed to prison in 1887 was as follows:—

Men - - - - -	4,568
Women - - - - -	644
Boys - - - - -	1,454
Girls - - - - -	16
	6,682

General Observations.

In the report on the Blue Book for 1886, written in May, 1887, it was stated that great progress had been made with the waterworks; and it was shown that the supply of pure water under pressure to the fortified towns, and to several of the villages, was an accomplished fact.

During the summer of 1887 the utility of the large expenditure which had been incurred for the waterworks was put to a severe test by the outbreak in Malta of cholera. The result of that test has been to show, so far, that in places where the water supply has been remodelled cholera does not spread, whereas in places attacked by cholera where the water supply remains in its former state the disease is as virulent as in former epidemics.

In Valletta, which is, speaking roughly, 1,000 yards long and 700 yards wide, and contains about 25,000 people, there were, in the epidemic of 1865, 282 deaths from cholera; in 1887 there were 41 deaths. Valletta has been for the past three years supplied with pure water under pressure. In the Three Cities, with a population of about 25,000, there were, in 1865, 293 deaths; in 1887, 59 deaths.

Before the commencement of the epidemic the Three Cities were supplied with water under pressure.

In Zabbar, a village with a population of about 4,400, and without a proper water supply, there were, in 1865, 54 deaths; in 1887, 63 deaths.

During the course of the 1887 epidemic pure water was laid on to Zabbar from the waterworks. As soon as it was brought into use the virulence of the epidemic in that village diminished, but it was too late to undo the work done by the polluted water. In Zeitun, with about 6,000 inhabitants, and without a proper water supply, there were, in 1865, 84 deaths; in 1887, 118 deaths. Water was also laid on to this village towards the close of the epidemic, but before the water could be got there the mischief had been done.

The fact that since the visitation of cholera in 1865 the fortified towns have been completely re-drained has, of course, contributed to the diminution in the number of deaths due to cholera during the visitation of 1887. But in villages which were attacked by cholera in 1887, and although undrained, were supplied with pure water under pressure, the diminution of the number of deaths from

cholera in 1887 as compared with 1865 is marked. In Birkirkara, with a population of about 6,000, there were 98 deaths in 1865; in 1887, 25. In Zebbug, with a population of about 5,000, there were 62 deaths in 1865 and 28 in 1887. In Curmi, with a population of about 6,500, there were 92 deaths in 1865 and 26 in 1887.

All the villages are undrained, but they are all supplied with good water.

An exhaustive report on the medical and hygienic aspects of the cholera epidemic is being compiled by the Chief Government Medical Officer, Dr. Pasani, and it is unnecessary that details should be given in this report. It is sufficient to state here that in 1887 the total number of cases was 626 and of deaths 462, and that the epidemic, which began on 3rd August, lasted until 12th November. In 1865 the total number of cases was 2,362, and of deaths 1,479.

During 1887 the old coinage of the Knights of St. John was demonetized and withdrawn at a total cost of 3,040*l.* 19*s.* 3½*d.*, of which 1,500*l.* were contributed from the Imperial Treasury. The total nominal value of the coins was—gold, 1,597*l.* 10*s.* 0¼*d.*, and silver, 10,665*l.* 15*s.* 6¾*d.* The sole currency of the Island is now British, silver being a legal tender up to 5*l.*

But the withdrawal of the Maltese coinage, and the previous withdrawal of the Sicilian dollars, has not by any means put an end to the difficulties connected with the coinage in Malta. The light sovereigns which find their way hither in large numbers, it is believed from Egypt, are the source of much trouble and of many disputes, and the somewhat archaic methods adopted by the local banks and the hoarding habits of the lower classes tend to disturb the natural relations between the coins of various denominations.

A year ago, for instance, four-shilling pieces to the nominal value of 5,000*l.* were imported. The coins have almost entirely disappeared, and I learn that they never now pass through the Treasury, nor are seen in the market. The cause is believed to be that they have been hoarded by the lower classes in lieu of some of the Sicilian dollars disgorged two years ago. Sixpences and threepenny pieces, on the other hand, are at a discount. The common people do not care to hoard them, and the local banks refuse them except as a deposit of so many sixpences or so many threepenny pieces, as the case may be.

The result is that a person who in the course of his business may collect a large number of these small coins finds great difficulty in disposing of them, and complains that there are too many in the Island; whereas, on the other hand, shopkeepers whose customers pay in gold and seek change, complain that there is not enough small change available. A remedy should and may be found for this state of affairs, but this is scarcely the place to discuss what the remedy should be.

The year 1887, the Jubilee year of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, will always be remembered in Malta as the year in which a liberal constitution was granted to the Maltese. The history of the steps which have led to the granting of this concession is to be found in

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the blue books which have been laid before Parliament. It is sufficient to say here that the elected members of the Legislature are now in a majority of 14 to 6 over the officials; that in questions of expenditure the decision is left entirely to the elected members, and that the elected members of the Legislature are represented in the Executive Council by three of their number, who are selected by the Governor; the Governor being careful to select three members who enjoy the confidence of the others. On the other hand, the salaries of the Governor and of the heads and subheads of departments, and the military contribution, are removed from the sphere of local discussion by being placed on the Civil List; pensions are awarded by the Secretary of State and paid from the Treasury without a vote, in accordance with any regulations which may from time to time be in force; the power of framing new pension regulations, saving vested interests, being expressly reserved to the local Council. The Governor has a right of veto and the Crown the right of legislating on any subject by Order in Council. These restrictions are necessary in view of the fact that Malta is an important fortress and naval station, and that the Imperial Government must therefore retain the power of doing, or refusing to do, anything which in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, may be necessary for, or inimical to, as the case may be, the safety and welfare of the Island.

The first session of the new Council was brought to a close on the 27th June, and, so far, the constitution, which has been received with general appreciation, has worked satisfactorily.

The Secretary of State has publicly stated the fact in the House of Lords, and has acknowledged the tact and judgment displayed by the Governor in working it. I may add that at the last meeting of the Council an address to the Governor was unanimously passed thanking his Excellency for the good offices used by him in obtaining the grant of the constitution, and warmly acknowledging the manner in which he had given effect to the provisions of the Letters Patent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,
Lieutenant-Governor.

To his Excellency
Sir J. L. A. Simmons, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.,
Governor of Malta,
&c. &c. &c.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 36.

MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES, AND RODRIGUES.

REPORTS ON THE BLUE BOOKS FOR 1887.

In continuation of [C.—5249] *February* 1888.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1888.

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1888.

[C.—5249.—39.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report for 1887).	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1½
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent - -	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	„	1
27	Leeward Islands - -	„	3½
28	British Guiana - -	„	2
29	Western Australia - -	„	½
30	Falkland Islands - -	„	1
31	Basutoland - -	„	1½
32	St. Lucia - - -	„	1½
33	Hong Kong - -	„	1½
34	Fiji - - -	„	3
35	British Honduras - -	„	1

No. 36.

MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES, AND RODRIGUES.

Administrator FLEMING to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Mauritius,
October 10, 1888.

MY LORD,

IN a Despatch of the 22nd ultimo I transmitted to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1887, together with the usual summary prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Beyts. As the above were received by me only just before the departure of the mail I was unable to forward my report in connexion therewith, which I now do.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. I regret to say that the revenue of the Colony for 1887 was even less than that for 1886, which was a decrease on the revenue of several preceding years. In 1886 the receipts amounted to Rs. 7,229,973. In 1887 to Rs. 6,858,918, showing a decrease as compared with the revenue of the previous year of Rs. 371,055.

The expenditure in 1887 was Rs. 7,985,909, being less by Rs. 404,145 than in the year before, when it amounted to Rs. 8,390,054.

The comparatively low prices at which sugar was sold during the year 1887 naturally tended to affect the receipts, whilst the amount of sugar actually exported for the season 1886–1887 was kilograms 102,376,271, as against kilograms 115,299,039 for 1885–1886. The year 1887 was indeed, in so far as revenue is concerned, one of the worst that the Colony has experienced for a long time past.

Imports and Exports.

3. The value of imports, exclusive of specie and bullion, in 1887 amounted to Rs. 23,434,100 as against Rs. 23,946,967 in 1886. That of the exports in 1887 was Rs. 25,998,056 as compared with Rs. 32,383,399 in the year before. It will consequently be seen that there was a falling off under both these headings.

Shipping.

4. The amount of tonnage inwards in 1887 was 306,220 tons, being less by 41,696 than in 1886; that outwards was 309,619, showing a decrease when compared with the previous year of

MAURITIUS.

34,735 tons. There was also a decrease in the number of ships inwards and outwards, the number in 1887 was 428, in 1886 468, that outwards being 430 as against 454.

Population.

5. The general population of the island, including 3,945 Chinese, was on the 31st December 1887 estimated at 116,821, the Indian population at 251, 342, making a total of 368,163. This was only 18 more than the estimated population at the corresponding period in 1886.

6. The number of births registered in 1887 was 13,914 as compared with 13,324 in the previous year. The total number of deaths in 1887 was 12,690, being an increase of 2,066 over that of 1886.

Immigration.

7. The number of immigrants introduced in 1887 was 264, which was less by 483 than in 1886, when the number was 747. The number of Indians that left the Colony under the control of the Immigration Department during 1887 was 2,350, being 30 more than in the preceding year.

Poor Relief.

8. Much poverty existed in the island during 1887, resulting in an increased expenditure on this account. The amount spent on poor relief was Rs. 370,907, showing an excess of Rs. 3,127 over that expended in 1886.

Education.

9. The expenditure under this heading amounted to Rs. 431,200, being Rs. 1,768 more than in 1886. The amount spent at the Royal College was Rs. 160,628; on Government schools, Rs. 150,106; on aided schools, Rs. 95,078; on industrial education, Rs. 2,992; and on the administration of the Government and aided schools, Rs. 22,394.

Military.

10. The number of troops in the island at the end of 1887, amounted in all to 423. The military contribution paid by the Colony during the year was Rs. 288,896.

Judicial Statistics and Gaols.

11. The offences reported to the police or magistrates in 1887 numbered 25,081, being 584 more than in 1886. But although this was the case the number of convictions in the inferior courts was 14,479, which was less by 81 than in the year before, whilst that in the Supreme Court was only 61 as against 112 in the previous year.

The number of persons committed to prison in 1887 was 7,960, being 467 less than in 1886. In the early part of the year 1887 a considerable number of prisoners were removed to the new buildings of a central prison which is in course of construction in a salubrious part of the island, about seven miles distant from Port Louis. This enabled two of the rural prisons to be closed, and when this central prison is sufficiently completed to receive more prisoners, which I trust it will be before long, it may be possible to close the remaining district gaols,

Ecclesiastical Establishments.

12. The Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England, and the Presbyterian Church receive State aid; the expense incurred on these Establishments during 1887 was as follows:—

The Roman Catholic Church received Rs. 70,695.
The Church of England, Rs. 45,539.
The Presbyterian Church, Rs. 5,249.

This is at the rate of 64 cents for each member of the Roman Catholic Church, and Rs. 6·34 for each member of the other two churches.

Railways.

13. The amount received from the Railway Department in 1887 was Rs. 1,434,848, being less by Rs. 2,601 than in 1886; the expenditure, however, was also less. In 1887 it was Rs. 1,047,236; in 1886, Rs. 1,100,347.

Post Office and Telegraph.

14. The revenue derived from these sources amounted during the year to Rs. 81,708, being Rs. 1,204 less than in 1886. The mails to and from Europe are conveyed monthly by the Messageries Maritimes Company, which continues to carry them with remarkable punctuality. But it would doubtless be desirable on more grounds than one that an important Colony like Mauritius should have the benefit of an English mail service. I have in previous Despatches expressed to your Lordship how desirable it would be in the interests of Mauritius if it could have a regular line of steamers connecting it with India on the one side and Europe on the other. The trade between this and India is steadily on the increase, whilst that with Australia is decreasing. The value of imports from continental India to Mauritius amounted in 1887 to Rs. 6,769,146, that of exports to India to Rs. 13,988,146, while from and to Australia the value of imports and exports was only Rs. 2,004,023 and Rs. 6,453,725 respectively.

MAURITIUS.

Legislation.

There were 29 Ordinances passed in 1887, all of which received Her Majesty's confirmation with the exception of one, the object of which was to reduce the present official staff in the island of Diego Garcia.

Among the laws enacted were Ordinances to consolidate and amend the laws relating to quarantine, to prisons, to amend the bankrupcy laws, and to legalise and regulate cremation of the dead.

16. There was also an Ordinance passed in 1887 authorising the raising of a loan for the Mare-aux-Vacoas Waterworks. The water supply, procured with the funds so raised, has conferred a great boon on several large centres of population, which had been labouring under the serious disadvantage of not possessing a sufficient provision of water.

Dependencies.

17. The principal dependencies of Mauritius are the Seychelles Islands, the revenue of which has much improve d of lae. In 1887 it amounted to Rs. 171,162 as compared with Rs. 152,858 in 1886. The expenditure in 1887 was Rs. 128,118, showing an increase of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 43,044.

The large steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Company have within the last few months made Seychelles (Mahé) their principal port of call between Aden and Australia in lieu of Mauritius. Should they continue to do so such will doubtless prove beneficial to the dependency. But Seychelles should not rely too much on this being the case. Several large steamers now run direct from Aden to the Australian ports without a stoppage, and inasmuch as Seychelles can scarcely be considered on the direct route to Australia it is not improbable that the Messageries steamers will eventually follow the example of other lines.

The total number of labourers employed on the estates in this dependency during the year was 921, the wages earned by them amounting to Rs. 65,177. Mr. Barkly, the Chief Civil Commissioner, remarks in his Annual Report for 1887 that the labourers are well treated and happy, and that the growing prosperity of the Islands enables better wages to be offered than heretofore.

18. The Annual Report of the Chief Civil Commissioner of Seychelles for 1887 has already been transmitted to your Lordship. I now forward the Report for 1887 of the Civil Commissioner of Rodrigues, by which it will be seen that at the end of last year that dependency was still labouring under the disastrous effects of the drought, and the hurricane of 1886. There seems, however, to be good reason to hope that by the carrying out of the measures suggested by Mr. Beyts, whom I deputed to proceed to Rodrigues on the 7th of August last to

inquire into the condition and requirements of that dependency, its resources will soon be so developed as no longer to render it a burthen to the Government of Mauritius.

19. The year 1887 was, as I have mentioned in previous paragraphs of this Despatch, anything but a satisfactory one, financially speaking, for Mauritius, while the health of the country was less salubrious than in the year immediately preceding.

I trust, however, that the present year will prove more favourable in both respects. The weather has up to the present been propitious, and the sugar crop, in so far as one can at present judge, promises to be a more than usually good one. The island has now for several years past escaped anything like a severe hurricane, and we must fervently hope that for many more to come it will be saved from the ravages and misfortunes which such storms necessarily entail.

20. The extension of the parcel post system to the Colony, recently announced by your Lordship, cannot fail to be otherwise than a boon to many of its inhabitants. I trust that the time is not far distant when we shall be in telegraphic communication with the rest of the world. The Colony has spent and continues to spend considerable sums for military purposes, defence works, &c.; but Colonel Hall, who is now in command of the troops, is of opinion, one in which I entirely concur, that the value of any military precautions is considerably minimised by the fact of there being no submarine cable to this country.

21. During the past year Mauritius joined with the rest of Her Majesty's loyal subjects in offering the Queen its sincere congratulations on the occasion of Her Jubilee reign. This year it has had to condole with her on the death of a sovereign whose personal qualities and close connexion with the Royal Family of England caused him to be so much and deeply regretted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. FLEMING.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

SEYCHELLES

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Government House, Seychelles,
May 16, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the accompanying report on the Seychelles Blue Book for 1887.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR BARKLY,
Chief Civil Commissioner.

His Honour
F. Fleming, Esq., C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

The net revenue of the year 1887 amounted to Rs. 171,161.89 against Rs. 152,858.03 in the preceding year, and the expenditure was Rs. 128,117.08 against Rs. 112,853.

The revenue of 1887 was the largest ever collected in Seychelles. It exceeded the estimated amount (Rs. 140,900) by Rs. 30,261.89, and shows an increase of Rs. 18,303.86 over that of 1886.

The heads of revenue under which the principal increase, as compared with 1886, is to be found, are the following:—

Import duties.
Licenses.
Fines, &c. of court.
Registration of deeds.
Mortgage office fees.

The net expenditure shows a balance of Rs. 43,044 in favour of revenue.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Exports.

The exports, exclusive of specie, amounted to Rs. 621,789, showing an increase of Rs. 195,318 over those of 1886. This is mainly owing to the larger export of vanilla, cloves, and Colonial soap.

The amount of specie exported was Rs. 10,546, against Rs. 39,313 in the preceding year.

Imports.

The imports showed an increase of Rs. 71,874 as compared with those of 1886. This is chiefly attributable to the large importa-

tion of cotton goods and haberdashery during the year. More Mauritius rum was also imported than in 1886.

The figures are as follows:—

	Rs.
1886 - - - - -	409,326
1887 - - - - -	481,201

Increase in 1887, Rs. 71,874.

SHIPPING.

In 1887 55 merchant vessels (including mail steamers) entered Port Victoria, with an aggregate tonnage of 100,342 tons.

Twelve men-of-war visited the port during the year.

Their nationality was as follows:—

English - - - - -	2
French - - - - -	5
German - - - - -	4
Portuguese - - - -	1

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

In the Ward of Mahé.

The birth rate per thousand was 23·72, against 35·72 in 1886.

The per-centage of still-births was 2·80, against 1·72 in 1886.

The death rate per thousand was 9·94, against 19·75 in 1886. A remarkably low per-centage.

There were 231 marriages, against 173 in 1886.

Two marriages in *articulo mortis* were celebrated during the year.

In the Ward of Praslin.

The birth rate was 35·9 per thousand, against 44·00 in 1886.

The still-births were 1·8 per cent., against 1·5 in 1885.

The death rate per thousand was 14·09, against 20·50 in 1886.

There were 26 marriages, against 24 in 1886; also one marriage in *articulo mortis*, against none the year before.

EDUCATION.

There were 22 schools in 1887 aided by Government grants attended by 1,801 children, against 21 schools in 1886 attended by 1,742 children.

Fifteen schools with 1,460 pupils are under the control of the Roman Catholic Mission, and seven schools with 341 pupils are managed by the Church of England. These figures do not

SEYCHELLES.

include four new schools, aggregating about 150 scholars, which from the want of duly qualified teachers, or other causes, have not been admitted to participate in the grant-in-aid.

The amount voted in 1887 was Rs. 8,000, the same amount as in 1886, and was apportioned as follows, viz.:—

	Rs.	c.
Roman Catholic Mission - - -	6,314	13
Church of England - - -	1,685	87
Total - -	8,000	00

JUDICIAL.

The total number of criminal informations filed during 1887 was 665, against 575 in 1886. There were 498 persons convicted, against 528 in 1886.

The most numerous charges were those of disturbance and drunkenness, though both were fewer in number than in 1886.

There were 119 persons convicted of disturbance, against 137 in 1886, and 63 convictions for drunkenness, against 127 in 1886.

For possession of stolen property there were 30 convictions, against 18 in 1886; for larceny 27 convictions against 41 in 1886.

The number of civil cases entered in 1887 was 155, against 136 in 1886. This is exclusive of local rate cases, of which there were more in either year.

There were 109 cases entered before the Stipendiary Court in 1887, against 120 in 1886, and the number of persons charged was 109, against 137 in 1886. The most numerous charges were for failing to produce tickets; of these there were 49 convictions, against 63 in 1886.

The engagements and discharges before the stipendiary magistrates were as follows:—

	1886.	1887.
Engagements - - - - -	41	44
Discharges - - - - - -	71	63

There were no appeals in criminal and stipendiary matters entered in 1887.

In civil matters, one appeal entered in 1886 was heard in 1887, and was dismissed. Three appeals were entered in 1887. One resulted in a modification of the judgment, one was sustained, and the third has not yet been heard.

GAOLS.

379 persons were committed to gaol in 1887, against 421 in 1886. There were 5 persons sentenced to one year or more, against 10 in 1886, and 374 persons sentenced for less than one year.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

As already reported, the number of adherents of the two churches supported by the Government in Seychelles is not shown separately from those of the other dependencies in the returns of the census taken in 1881.

The following number of ministers were employed in 1887:—

Church of England.

Civil chaplain	1
Assistant minister for Mahé	1
Minister of Praslin	1
Evangelists and catechists	8
Total	11

against 12 in 1886.

Roman Catholic Church.

Bishop	1
Priests in holy orders	14
Lay Brothers, Capuchins	5
Lay Brothers, Marists	6
Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny	25
Total	51

against 45 in 1886.

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

Church of England.

Churches	2
Chapels (also used as schools)	10
Total	12

against 10 in 1886.

Roman Catholic Church.

Churches (permanent) - - -	9
„ (temporary) - - -	6
Chapels - - - - -	5
Total -	20

against 18 in 1886.

HOSPITALS.

The number of persons treated in the public hospital in 1887 was 179, against 184 in 1886, as follows:—

	1886.	1887.
Paupers - - - - -	93	66
Prisoners - - - - -	56	49
Paying patients - - - -	35	64
Total - - - -	184	179

Of these 179 persons—

137 were discharged as cured.
14 „ „ relieved.
8 „ „ unrelieved.
9 died.
11 remaining in hospital at the end of the year.

Total 179

Of the unrelieved 3 were lunatics sent to Mauritius; 1 was a leper removed to the leper camp, Curieuse Island; 1 pauper was sent to Curieuse pauper establishment, and 3 left the hospital at their own request.

The principal diseases were anæmia, dysentery, fever, rheumatism, syphilis, and ulcers.

There were in 1887, 245 vaccinated at the public hospital and 54 at the outlying stations, in all 299.

DISPENSARY.

The number of persons who have applied for medicines at the public dispensary was 4,233 against 4,865 in 1886.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The New Court House, Post Office, &c. in Royal Street has been completed.

Government House has been re-papered, and some necessary repairs to it effected.

Repairs of more or less importance have been made to several public buildings.

A new mast with yard, &c. has been made for the Port Department.

The Denis Island lighthouse has been thoroughly repaired, and is now regularly painted and carefully attended to.

The Port Victoria lighthouse has also been put in good condition, and the boats of the Port Department have received such repairs as were required.

Roads and Bridges.

The following wooden bridges have been constructed:—

One, 10 feet by 8, at Pointe La Rue.
One, 25 feet by 6, in town, and six small bridges on the Cascade Road.

The existing roads have been kept in order, and 15 bridges have been thoroughly repaired and strengthened.

The road between Barbaron and Anse Boileau has been continued, and extended by 1,232 metres. Cascade Road has been extended by 190 metres.

The Chaussées commenced at Pointe La Rue, measuring 208 metres, have been continued.

The new coal wharf at the north end of the pier was commenced, and is progressing rapidly.

LEGISLATION.

The following regulations were passed by the Board of Civil Commissioners:—

No. 1 of 1887.—Appropriation Regulation for 1887.

No. 2 of 1887.—Respecting the introduction of dogs into Seychelles.

No. 3 of 1887.—To prohibit the introduction of vanilla creepers into Seychelles Islands.

No. 4 of 1887.—To amend Regulation No. 3 of 1886.

No. 5 of 1887.—To amend Regulation No. 3 of 1883.

No. 6 of 1887.—To provide for the offices of Chief Officer of Police, Sanitary Inspector, and Inspector of Liberated Africans being combined and held together as one office.

No. 7 of 1887.—To make better provision for the custody and discipline of prisoners.

No. 8 of 1887.—Appropriation Regulation for 1888.

Government House, Seychelles, 16th May 1888.

ARTHUR BARKLY,
Chief Civil Commissioner.

RODRIGUES.

Rodrigues.

Report on the Island of Rodrigues for the Year 1887.

Civil Commissioner's Office, Rodrigues,
April 27, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith my Annual Report on this Dependency for the year 1887.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. C. O'Halloran,
Civil Commissioner and
Police Magistrate.

I.—Taxation.

No alteration was made in the taxation of this island during 1887.

II.—Receipts and Expenditure.

Receipts for the past Two Years.

No.	Heads of Receipts.	1886.		1887.	
		Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1	Land sales and forest produce	435	04	245	11
2	Customs	—		—	
3	Land rent	584	25	1,084	50
4	Pasturage	841	00	926	25
5	Registration dues	171	05	7	00
6	Licenses (shop and game)	1,145	00	990	00
7	Stamps	150	84	80	32
8	Taxes (horse and dogs)	407	50	398	75
9	Postage and commission on money orders	120	52	158	05
10	Fines and forfeitures	240	25	332	04
11	Fees of court	190	62	95	95
12	Fees of office	9	26	7	75
13	Sale of Government property	1,155	63	4,101	44
14	School fees	144	01	168	00
15	Miscellaneous	474	13	1,302	98
	Total	6,069	10	9,898	14

* Received in Mauritius; amount not known here.

There is an increase of Rs. 3,829.04 in the receipts for 1887 over those of the previous year; and of Rs. 3,310.11 over 1885.

The figures in the foregoing table for 1887 indicate slight increases in the revenue obtained from pasturage, postage, fines and forfeitures, and school fees.

Rs. 2,945.81 out of the total increase is found under heading of sale of Government property, Rs. 828.85 under miscellaneous, and Rs. 500.25 under land rent. The total increase under all the above heads of revenue amount to Rs. 4,513.47. Against this we have a total decrease of Rs. 684.43, three fourths of which will be found under land sales, forest produce, registration dues, and licenses; while stamps, dog taxes, fees of court, and fees of office account for the remaining fourth. Payments for rice, under sale of Government property and refund of cost of stores sent by Storekeeper General for the police under miscellaneous, explains the increase under these headings.

There has been no real increase in land rent, as a good deal of what was due for 1886 was paid in 1887, and at the close of the year rents were still outstanding for both years. The decrease in forest produce, registration, and licenses may be accounted for by the general depression in all sorts of trade, the effects of the hurricane of 1886.

The rate of revenue per head of population for 1887 was Rs. 5.40 against Rs. 3.43 in 1886.

Expenditure for past Two Years.

No.		Heads of Expenditure.	1886. Rs.	c.	1887. Rs.	c.
1	Salaries fixed and provisional.	Civil Commissioner and postmaster -	2,119	92	2,074	91
2		Roman Catholic chaplain - -	1,333	28	1,545	63
3		Government medical officer - -	1,368	80	1,324	94
4		School department - - -	*2,340	00	2,640	00
5		Police and forest ranger - - -	3,820	00	3,628	11
6		Hospital servant - - - -	192	00	192	00
7		Scavengers - - - -	228	00	271	00
8		Labourer - - - -	240	00	240	00
9	Allowances.	Rent, Government medical officer - -	250	00	—	
10		„ schoolmaster, Port Mathurin -	210	00	100	00
11		„ Chief officer of police - -	171	00	240	00
12		Clerical assistance to Civil Commissioner	240	00	240	00
13		Allowances for rations to police and forest ranger - - - - -	702	84	776	97
14	Miscellaneous.	Meteorological observer - - -	182	50	182	50
15		School cleaning - - - -	156	00	156	00
16		Taxation, Crown witnesses - - -	5	50	00	50
17		Prisoners' extra rations - - -	9	36	8	59
18		Fees to Government pilot - - -	80	00	200	00
19		Works and buildings, including sanitary -	1,700	51	964	79
20		Repairs to boats and buildings - -	465	71	269	62
21		Pensions, ex-police constables - -	457	98	819	29
22		Towing night-soil barge to sea - -	120	00	120	00
23		Rations to hospital servant, and scavengers	65	24	50	83
24		Hospital sick diets and sundries - -	165	91	53	93
25		Usher's fees due by Crown - -	79	25	40	50
26		Travelling expenses, Civil Commissioner and Government medical officer - -	234	00	171	75

* In 1886 the teacher of St. Gabriel drew Rs. 300 of his salary in Mauritius. The real expenditure for school was therefore Rs. 2,640.

No.	Heads of Expenditure.	1886.		1887.	
		Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
27	Vaccination fees, Government medical officer -	148	50	102	00
28	Maintenance and passage, distressed seamen -	590	75	—	
29	Refund of fines - - - - -	40	00	20	56
30	Rewards and gratuities - - - -	20	00	715	00
31	Advance of salary, (Mr. Tanguy, Public Works Department) - - - - -	60	00	—	
32	Boatmen, health officer, &c. - - -	26	09	6	09
33	Transport - - - - -	45	00	68	61
34	Guardian Government farm buildings - -	50	00	—	
35	Post Office Orders - - - -	353	87	675	91
36	Sundry payments - - - -	334	25	168	92
37	Quarantine guard boat - - - -	—		43	55
38	Burials, police - - - - -	—		20	48
39	Hospital female nurse (wages) - - -	—		9	50
40	Allowances from charitable fund - -	—		30	00
41	Painting public buildings - - -	—		158	25
42	Annuities with police medals - - -	—		175	00
	Total - - - - -	18,606	26	18,505	73

Note.—In Mr. Boucherat's Report for 1886, in the column of expenditure for that year, many items appeared separately, which this year in the column for 1886 I have blocked together for convenience.

Thus items 14, 15, 16 and 35 of column expenditure 1886, in Report for 1886, appear above in column 1886 as items 19 and 22;—items 19 and 27 as item 20; while 29, 45, 46, 47 and 48 form item 36.

Item 4, expenditure 1886 gave police salaries and ration allowances in one sum. In the column for 1886 above, the salaries are separated from the ration, forming items 5 and 13.

There has been a decrease of Rs. 100.53 in the expenditure for 1887 over the previous year.

The excess of expenditure in 1887 (as per Rodrigues Books) over revenue has been Rs. 8,607.59. It must, however, be remembered that only local revenue is taken into account; our custom dues and heaviest pasturage dues being paid in Mauritius.

The rate of expenditure per head of population in 1887 was Rs. 10.11 against Rs. 10.57 in 1886.

III.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Offences for which prosecution took place in 1887 numbered 57, being a decrease of 11 on the year 1886. There was also a decrease of 9 in the number of persons brought before the courts in 1887 over 1886.

Table of Offences for which Persons were Prosecuted in 1886 *and* 1887.

No.	Nature of Offences.	Number of Offences,	
		1886.	1887.
1	Adultery	1	—
2	Larceny	3	—
3	Do. Prædial	2	—
4	Possession of stolen property	6	1
5	Receiving stolen property	1	—
6	Defamation and slander	3	4
7	Wounds and blows	2	2
8	Embezzlement	2	—
9	Assault	—	1
10	Breach of license laws	3	3
11	Drunkenness	4	2
12	Disturbance	4	4
13	Cruelty to animals	—	1
14	Indecency	—	2
15	Allowing animals to stray	6	4
16	Trespass	2	4
17	Breach of woods and forest laws	10	17
18	Abusive language	4	5
19	Throwing stones	2	1
20	Offences by seamen (Marine Act)	1	1
21	Breach of labour law	6	4
22	Breach of vaccination law	4	—
23	Offences not included above	2	1
	Total	*68	57

* *Note.*—Report for 1886 by Mr. Boucherat gives 77 as the number of criminal and stipendiary cases, but nine cases in which search warrants were issued had been included.

These I have not entered, as no prosecution resulted from the searches.

Cases for past Two Years classified as follows.

Before what Court.	No. of Persons Charged.		No. of Persons Convicted.		Number of Persons Acquitted or otherwise.	
	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.
Police	77	71	48	47	29	23
Stipendiary Court	7	4	7	4	—	—
Total	84	75	55	51	29	*23

* One case (one person charged) pending at end of year.

RODRIGUES.

Nationalities of Offenders in 1886 *and* 1887.

——	1886.	1887.
Americans - - - - -	2	2
Creoles (Mauritius, Bourbon, and Rodrigues) -	62	62
Indians - - - - - -	10	4
Malagasees - - - - -	10	7

IV.—EDUCATION.

During 1887 the Government schools at Port Mathurin under Mr. Ternel, and at St. Gabriel under Mr. Armand, offered the usual advantages to the children of this Island.

Table showing number of pupils attending the Government schools during past two years:—

Port Mathurin School.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1886 - - - -	72	56	$77\frac{7}{9}$ per cent.
1887 - - - -	70	54	$77\frac{1}{7}$ „

St. Gabriel School.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1886 - - - -	62	38	$61\frac{9}{31}$ per cent.
1887 - - - -	57	38	$66\frac{2}{3}$ „

Cost of Port Mathurin School during past Two Years.

Particulars.	1886.	1887.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salary of teacher and sewing mistress -	1,560 00	1,560 00
House rent - - - - -	210 00	100 00
Allowances for school cleaning in lieu of servant	96 00	96 00
Total - - - -	1,866 00	1,756 00
Less school fees received - - -	144 01	168 00
Total cost of school - -	1,721 99	1,588 00

The annual cost to Government of each pupil was Rs. 22.68 as against Rs. 23.91 in 1886.

Cost of St. Gabriel School during past Two Years.

Particulars.	1886.	1887.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salaries of teacher and sewing mistress -	1,080 00	1,080 00
Allowance for school cleaning - -	60 00	60 00
Total cost of school - -	*1,140 00	1,140 00

No school fees are charged at this school, which is on the mountain. Annual cost to Government of each pupil was Rs. 20, as against Rs. 18.38 in 1886.

Note.—Rs. 840 was the amount actually paid in Rodrigues, but the teacher drew s. 300 of his salary in Mauritius; so I have included it above to give the real cost.

Total Cost of both Government Schools during past Two Years.

Particulars.	Port Mathurin School.	St. Gabriel Island.
	1886.	1887.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salaries of teachers and sewing mistresses -	*2,640 00	2,640 00
House rent Do. do. -	210 00	100 00
Allowance for school cleaning - -	156 00	156 00
Total - -	3,006 00	2,896 00
Less fees received at Port Mathurin School -	144 01	168 00
Total - -	2,861 99	2,728 00

* *Vide* note to item 4, table expenditure.

RODRIGUES.

Annual cost of each pupil at both schools has been Rs. 21.48 against Rs. 21.35 in 1886.

On the 21st December 1887 the Civil Commissioner examined the children at St. Gabriel school assisted by the Curé of Rodrigues (Rev. H. J. MacDonnell) and Mr. A. Cadier. Thirty-nine pupils were present for examination, of whom three fourths "passed."

On the 27th December 1887 the Port Mathurin scholars were examined by the Civil Commissioner assisted by the teacher of St. Gabriel school (Mr. Armand) and by the Chief Officer of Police (Mr. Mason). Twenty-eight pupils were examined, two thirds of whom "passed."

The subjects of examination were reading, writing (in French and English), geography, grammar, and arithmetic.

V.—POST OFFICE.

The revenue derived from this source during 1887 stands at Rs. 158.05, being an increase of Rs. 37.53 on the year 1886.

Post Office Receipts for past Two Years.

Particulars.	1886.	1887.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Unpaid letters - - - -	4 48	3 8
2. Sale of postage labels - - -	77 07	100 85
3. Commission on money orders - -	38 97	54 12
Total - - -	120 52	158 05

Money Orders, 1886 *and* 1887.

Where Drawn on.	1886.	1887.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Mauritius - - - - -	11,054 91	15,173 03
Rodrigues - - - - -	353 87	675 91

The increase in the amount of orders drawn on Mauritius in 1887 over 1886 was Rs. 4,118.12, and Rs. 322.04 in those drawn on Rodrigues.

Letters and Newspapers despatched and received during past Two Years.

Years.	Received.						Despatched.			
	Letters.			Newspapers.			Letters.			Newspapers and Books.
	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	
1886 -	891	14	905	722	—	722	728	17	745	Nil
1887 -	913	35	948	482	24	506	1,032	26	1,058	Nil

In 1887 there was an increase of 43 in the number of letters, and a decrease of 216 in the newspapers received at the Rodrigues Post Office, and an increase of 313 in the letters despatched as compared with 1886.

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

New quarters for the Chief Officer of Police were commenced in 1887, but not completed. (The quarters built for the Chief Officer of Police in 1883 have been transferred to the Government Medical Officer.) The fences round all the Government property in Port Mathurin were renewed. A new bridge was built over the river at Victoria Street, and the bridge over the mouth of the river in Jenner Street was repaired and put in thorough order. A new dam was built at the reservoir.

Rs. 964.79 was expended on works (including sanitary) and buildings, versus Rs. 1,700.51 in 1886.

Repairs to roads and boats and Government buildings, including painting, were executed as required at a cost of Rs. 269.62 against Rs. 465.71 in 1886.

VII.—POPULATION

The population of this Dependency on 31st December 1887 was 1,830, an increase during the year of 61 souls.

Population on 31st December 1886 -			1,769
Total births, 1887 - - -	88		
„ arrivals „ - - -	30		
	—	118	
Less deaths, 1887 - - -	27		
„ departures „ - - -	30		
	—	57	
Increase - - - -			61
Population on the 31st December 1887		-	1,830

RODRIGUES.

Table of Births, Deaths, &c. during past Two Years.

Year.	Births.			Deaths.			Arrivals.			Departures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1886 - - -	49	52	101	10	14	24	28	12	40	25	10	35
1887 - - -	49	39	88	15	12	27	19	11	30	14	16	30

Classification of Population, 1886 *and* 1887.

Year.	General Population.			Indian Population.			Total.		Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
1886 -	963	789	1,752	17	—	17	980	789	1,769
1887 -	997	816	1,813	17	—	17	1,014	816	1,830

Classification of Nationalities.

	1886.	1887.
Natives of Europe - - - -	4	4
„ America - - - -	2	2
„ Asia (India, Siam, and China) -	18	21
„ Africa - - - -	8	7
„ Madagascar - - -	41	40
„ Mauritius - - - -	225	228
„ Seychelles - - -	6	4
„ Rodrigues - - -	1,463	1,521
„ Réunion - - - -	2	3
Total - - -	1,769	1,830

The following is the estimation of the number employed at various callings and those unemployed.

	1886.	1887.
Government servants - - - -	17	17
Commerce - - - - -	8	8
Agriculturalists - - - - -	900	1,000
Artisans - - - - - -	14	14
Fisheries - - - - -	300	226
Other callings - - - - -	130	150
Unemployed, including aged people and young children - - - - -	400	415
	1,769	1,830

Marriages - - 3 in 1887 against 7 in 1886.
Still births - - 3 „ „ 1 „

There was an increase of three in the mortality of 1887 on 1886 (all deaths from natural causes), 20 being infants or young children.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

During 1887 no Ordinances were enacted specially for this island by the Legislative Council of Mauritius.

IX.— PRISONS.

Twelve prisoners were committed during 1887 as compared with 41 in 1886.

	1886.	1887.
For non-payment of fine and costs - -	12	4
„ safe custody until trial - - -	15	3
„ various terms of imprisonment - -	14	5
„ debt under Ordinance 16 of 1879 - -	—	—
Total - -	41	12

RODRIGUES.

There is no special prison staff, the police acting as prison guards, and the chief officer of police as keeper of the gaol.

No offences were committed in the prison, and no escapes took place during 1887.

Cost of maintenance of prisoners—value of rations only—rice and salt.

Value of labour, nil, sweeping, weeding, and ordinary scavengers' work about the village being their only employment.

X.—ESTABLISHMENTS.

Cost of Establishment for past Two Years.

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances.	Total.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1886 - - -	11,942 00	1,573 84	13,515 84
1887 - - -	11,916 59	1,356 97	13,273 56

There was a decrease of Rs. 242.28 in the cost of Rodrigues Establishment for 1887 compared with the previous year, the salaries showing a decrease of Rs. 25.41, and the allowances a decrease of Rs. 216.87.

There was no medical officer in this island from 1st January to 12th June, therefore there was a saving of that officer's salary of Rs. 874.98 minus Rs. 200.00 which was paid to the Protestant catechist for dispensing medicines, &c. before the doctor's arrival.

The Civil Commissioner (Mr. O'Halloran) returned from leave of absence on the 21st April 1887, from which date he drew half salary in this island, the remainder being paid in England. From the 1st January to the 21st April Mr. Boucherat, the Acting Civil Commissioner, drew half salary hereto (*sic*) Mr. O'Halloran (in Mauritius) the remaining half which does not figure above.

XI.—TRADE.

The estimated value of imports and exports for past two years are as follows:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1886 - - - -	59,167 40	44,678 00
1887 - - - -	60,622 02	6 0

The imports show an increase of Rs. 1,454.62, and the exports an increase of Rs. 15,936.80 over the previous year.

In the imports the increase is caused by an importation of nearly double the quantity of rum imported in 1886.

In the exports the increase is accounted for as follows:—28 bundles bambara, 4,000 lbs. old copper, exportation of 252 cattle against nil 1886; plus 2,000 lbs. beans and 1,500 lbs. salt fish in excess of those articles exported in 1886. RODRIGUES.

Rate of Imports and Exports per Head of Population during past Two Years.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1886 - - - - -	33 44	25 25
1887 - - - - -	33 12	33 12

XII.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Observations of the barometer, thermometer, "winds and weather" were made and duly recorded during the past year by the Chief Officer of Police (Mr. Charles Mason). These observations were transmitted by each opportunity to the Director of the Observatory at Mauritius.

No hurricanes visited the island during the year 1887.

XIII.—GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARY.

Table showing the Number of Patients treated during 1886 *and* 1887.

Year.	In-Patients.			Out-Patients of both Sexes.	Grand Total.	Prevailing Diseases among In-Patients.
	Males.	Females.	Total.			
1886 -	20	5	*25	589	614	Abscess, malarial fever, lymphitis, delirium tremens, cerebral hæmorrhage, neuralgia, concussion of spine, burns, pleuritis, worms, diarrhœa, heart disease, kidneys disease, disease of bladder, tumour, bronchitis.
1887 -	10	2	*12	778	790	

* For various periods.

During 1887 there was a decrease of 13 patients treated in the hospital as compared with 1886, and an increase of 189 amongst the out-patients for the same period. It must, however, be borne in mind that from November to 31st December 1886, and from January to 12th June 1887, there was no medical officer in the island.

RODRIGUES.

Receipts and Expenditure of Hospital for 1886 *and* 1887.

Year.	Receipts on account of In-Patients.	Total Expenditure on account of Hospital.	Cost of Hospital and Dispensary.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1886 - - -	22 75	*2,468 45	2,445 70
1887 - - -	15 23	2,021 89	200 66

* Including rent of hospital paid in Mauritius.

The expenditure of 1886 and 1887 was as follows:—

	1886.	1887.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salary of medical officer - -	1,368 80	1,324 94
House rent „ - -	250 00	—
Travelling „ - -	120 00	70 00
Rent of hospital - - -	360 00	360 00
Pay and rations of servant - -	203 52	203 52
Wages of female nurse - - -	—	9 50
Hospital sick diets, &c. - -	165 91	53 93
	2,468 23	2,021 89

There was a decrease of Rs. 446.34 in the total cost of hospital in 1887 over 1886, and a decrease of Rs. 7.52 in the receipts for the same period.

The total cost to Government of each patient, both in hospital and at dispensary (exclusive of medicines), was as follows during past two years:—

	Rs.
1886 - - - - -	3.98
1887 - - - - -	2.54

In 1887 there were two deaths against nil in 1886.

Weekly visits were made by the medical officer to the Mountain Dispensary. On 12th June Dr. Roussel arrived, *vice* Dr. Mifsud resigned.

XIV.—GENERAL REMARKS.

Not much worthy of note has to be recorded for the past year. The crops were fair towards the middle of the year, but rice was

issued from Government stores to the middle of April in consequence of the distress caused by the hurricane of 1886.

The sanitary condition was satisfactory, although the death rate was slightly higher. The general health of the community was fair.

On the 21st April Mr. O'Halloran, the titular Civil Commissioner, arrived and relieved Mr. Boucherat, who had been acting during the former's leave of absence.

On the 20th June a "Te Deum" was sung by the Rev. H. J. MacDonnell in the Roman Catholic Church in presence of the Civil Commissioner and the inhabitants, in celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee. In the evening a ball was held in honour of the same event, and a loyal address was signed and forwarded by the first opportunity to His Excellency the Governor of Mauritius for transmission to the Queen.

On the 30th June H.M.S. "Bacchante," Capt. Moore, R.N. (bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Richards, K.C.B.), arrived, and left after a stay of seven days.

The close of the year left the island still in a depressed condition. Most of the poorer classes saddled with debt to Government for rice supplied during the latter end of 1886 and beginning of 1887, and also much in arrears with their land rent and pasturage dues.

A good deal has, however, been paid off, and although a considerable amount is still outstanding, yet if good crops are realised this year the inhabitants may reasonably hope to find themselves in a better position ere the close of 1888.

J. CLAN. O'HALLORAN,
Civil Commissioner
and Police Magistrate.

Rodrigues, April 24, 1888.

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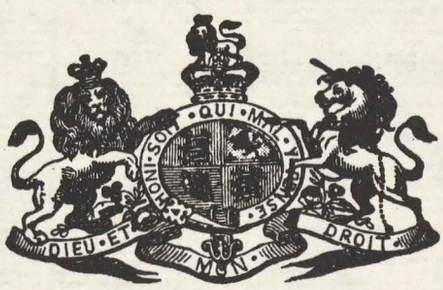
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 10.

NATAL.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249—7.]

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5	New Zealand „ - - -	5
6	Tobago (1887) - - -	1
7	Gibraltar „ - - -	1
8	Gold Coast (Report of Governor's visit to Eastern Districts, 1888).	1
9	Heligoland (1887) - - -	1

No. 10.

NATAL.

Sir A. E. HAVELOCK to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Pietermaritzburg, Natal,
April 17, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit a report upon the Blue Book of Natal for the year 1887.

2. This report, which has been drawn up by Mr. Christopher Bird, the Assistant Colonial Secretary, is clear and concise.

In view of the recent remarkable increase in the trade and revenue of this Colony, consequent upon the development of the South African gold fields, it possesses special interest. Giving, as it does, valuable information about the present financial and commercial position of this Colony, I hope your Lordship will consider it worthy of being printed and published separately.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT ON NATAL BLUE BOOK, 1887.

1. The financial condition of Natal at the end of 1887 presents so favourable a contrast with its position 12 months previously that it will be of interest to note the progress of the Colony during the last few years and to advert briefly to the circumstances which have affected its advance.

2. A statement is appended showing the Colony's revenue, expenditure, and trade from 1868 to 1887, during which period of 20 years the public revenue has increased ninefold.

3. The Zulu and Boer wars (1879–1881), during which Natal was the base of operations, gave an abnormal impetus to the trade of the Colony, the imports and customs receipts for 1880 exceeded those of any previous or subsequent year, and for a time the revenue kept well ahead of the ordinary expenditure. This prosperity was, however, short-lived, and the depression of trade which was making itself universally felt, more particularly in the Colonies, soon extended to Natal, whose resources were burdened by the interest falling to be paid on loans newly raised for railway extension and other public works.

o 54318. Wt. 18427.

NATAL.

The rapid development during the last 18 months of the South African gold fields has tended largely to revive the trade of Natal with the interior, and the Colony's ability to carry goods by rail to within a short distance of its borders has materially assisted in placing that trade on a more secure footing than in the past. It may therefore be reasonably hoped that the improvement in the Colony's position will be maintained.

4. STATISTICAL STATEMENT relative to the Revenue, Expenditure, and Trade of Natal from 1868 to 1887 inclusive.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Value of		
			Imports.	Exports.	Customs Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£
1868 -	95,762	117,255	317,432	271,949	30,629
1869 -	114,810	117,317	380,331	363,262	38,146
1870 -	126,293	117,009	429,527	382,979	47,090
1871 -	125,628	118,657	472,444	562,109	47,022
1872 -	180,498	132,978	825,252	622,797	81,915
1873 -	208,086	182,224	1,011,465	651,028	96,003
1874 -	247,259	254,402	1,121,948	770,034	109,725
1875 -	260,271	307,025	1,208,838	835,643	114,777
1876 -	265,551	261,933	1,022,890	657,390	97,118
1877 -	272,473	283,823	1,167,402	689,817	106,287
1878 -	369,383	434,632	1,719,562	694,192	162,953
1879 -	473,478	491,883	2,176,356	583,711	228,558
1880 -	582,715	494,436	2,336,584	890,874	250,783
1881 -	612,961	524,444	1,912,856	768,038	201,298
1882 -	657,737	659,031*	2,213,538	738,809	221,045
1883 -	620,496	697,265*	1,751,107	831,747	165,007
1884 -	610,936	707,528*	1,675,850	957,918	179,908
1885 -	669,831	774,159*	1,518,557	877,483	163,839
1886 -	600,177	717,414†	1,331,115	960,290	140,402
1887 -	816,680	689,572‡	2,263,920	1,056,959	231,412

* Exclusive of expenditure under Public Works Loan as follows:—

	£
1882 - - - - - - - -	79,155
1883 - - - - - - - -	62,969
1884 - - - - - - - -	39,280
1885 - - - - - - - -	97,516

† Exclusive of expenditure from loan funds 57,010*l.*

‡ Exclusive of following expenditure:—

	£
Conversion laws, 1, 1886, and 21, 1887 - - -	16,251
Expenditure under loan funds - - - -	79,270
	95,521

Revenue and Expenditure.

5. The revenue of the Colony for the year 1887 shows an increase of a third over that for 1886, the heads under which the most noticeable increase is to be found being railways (259,364*l.* as against 178,287*l.* for 1886) and customs (231,412*l.* as against 140,402*l.* for 1886). Land sales show an advance of receipts from 15,772*l.* for 1886 to 36,767*l.* for 1887; but this is mainly due to the institution during 1887 of legal proceedings for the recovery of payments in arrear. It is satisfactory to note that the receipts under the heads mail services and telegraphs show a substantial increase.

6. As compared with 1886 the expenditure of the Colony for 1887 shows a decrease of 27,342*l.*, and as compared with 1885 a decrease of 84,587*l.* The principal reductions in the expenditure for 1887 are to be found under the heads of colonial defence, public debt (interest), education, and harbour works. A reduction of from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. was made during 1887 upon Civil Service salaries of 250*l.* and upwards, and a considerable retrenchment in the working expenses and staff of the railway department was also effected.

Public Debt.

7. The public debt of the Colony on the 31st December 1887 amounted to 4,035,126*l.* Law 49, 1887, authorised the raising of a further loan of 500,000*l.* for railway extension and other purposes, but the loan was not floated until after the end of the year.*

A law passed by the Legislative Council during the session of 1886–7 provided for the conversion of Natal securities bearing sinking funds into 4 per cent. consolidated stock without a sinking fund, and by this means sinking funds to the extent of over 100,000*l.* have been released. The consolidation, while reducing the interest on the public debt by 3,650*l.*, and the charge for sinking fund by 13,248*l.* annually, has increased that debt by about 77,700*l.*

Imports and Exports.

8. By Law 4, 1886, which came into operation at the close of that year, a revised customs tariff was brought into force. The chief feature of the law is that certain goods imported for consumption beyond the boundaries of the Colony may be conveyed under bond to the borders upon payment of transit dues in lieu of the ordinary customs duties upon those goods.

---

* This loan was successfully floated by the Crown Agents in February 1888, the average realised being 103*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*

The following are the goods so affected:—

Goods.	Transit Dues.
Spirits of all sorts, sweetened or perfumed, or otherwise, liqueurs and cordials, except Hollands gin.	6*d.* per gallon.
Hollands gin	3*d.* per gallon.
Tea	1*d.* per lb.
Manufactured tobacco and cigars	6*d.* per lb.
Wines	6*d.* per gallon.

9. The imports for 1887 exceeded in value those for 1886 by 932,806*l.*, and the revenue derived from customs during 1887 exceeded that for 1886 by 91,010*l.* The customs revenue given for 1887 (231,412*l.*) includes 3,460*l.* transit dues on goods sent out of the Colony under the provisions of the new law. Among the articles more largely imported during 1887 are ale and beer in bottle, spirits, wine, manufactured tobacco and cigars, apparel and slops, haberdashery and millinery, woollen and cotton manufactures, ironmongery and hardware, leathern manufactures, machinery, flour, meal and bran, and preserved provisions.

10. The value of the exports for 1887 was 1,056,959*l.*, as compared with 960,290*l.* for 1886, but the increase is mainly in articles not the produce of the Colony. There is no export duty.

The following are the values of the chief exports:—

——	1887.	1886.
	£	£
Wool	601,171	532,965
Raw gold	143,551	113,166
Angora hair	12,664	15,022
Hides	59,100	74,643
Unrefined sugar	114,079	100,500
Maize	13,925	14,036
Arrowroot	4,615	7,867
Ostrich feathers	3,414	5,079

11. As gold is now figuring conspicuously as an export from Natal, the following return of gold exported from Natal and the Cape Colony for the three years ended 31st December 1887 will be found of interest:—

From Natal.

——	1885.	1886.	1887.	Total.
Ounces - - -	No. 14,921	No. 31,435	No. 40,437	No. 86,793
Value - - -	£ 52,222	£ 113,166	£ 143,551	£ 308,939

From Cape Colony.

——	1885.	1886.	1887.	Total.
Ounces - - -	No. 5,050	No. 6,674	No. 25,698	No. 37,422
Value - - -	£ 17,321	£ 23,914	£ 92,936	£ 134,171

Total Exports from Natal and Cape Colony for three years.

——	1885.	1886.	1887.	Total.
Ounces - - -	No. 19,971	No. 38,109	No. 66,135	No, 124,215
Value - - -	£ 69,543	£ 137,080	£ 236,487	£ 443,110

Shipping.

12. The following vessels were entered inwards and cleared outwards during 1887 :—

——	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British Vessels.				
Sailing - - - -	94	22,559	102	26,009
Steam - - - -	202	190,198	198	183,645
Foreign Vessels.				
Sailing - - - -	71	22,728	70	21,652
Steam - - - -	—	—	—	—
Totals - - -	367	235,485	370	231,306

There are 12 vessels belonging to Port Natal, the total tonnage of which is 623 tons.

Legislation.

13. The first session of the Twelfth Council, opened by the Governor on the 8th September 1886, continued its sittings until the 3rd February 1887. The second session was opened on the 2nd June 1887, and was prorogued on the 3rd of the following August. 52 laws were passed during 1887, of which the following are the more important :—

No. 8.—"To declare the law relating to Bills of Exchange, "Cheques, and Promissory Notes."

No. 9.—"To provide for the maintenance of Discipline in Her "Majesty's Ships in Colonial Waters."

No. 17.—"To consolidate the Law as to Mining."

No. 21.—"To consolidate all existing Natal Loan Laws not "bearing sinking funds."

No. 25.—"To empower the Governor to make, maintain, and "equip certain extensions of the Main Line of Railway in the "Colony of Natal."

No. 26.—"To enable individuals and companies to lead water "for purposes of irrigation through lands not their own."

No. 27.—"To regulate and define the Punishment for the "crimes of Rape and Assault with intent to commit Rape, and of "Indecent Assault."

No. 29.—"To amend the Law relating to Elections of Elective "Members of the Legislative Council."

No. 30.—"To regulate the erection and maintenance of dividing Fences."

No. 39.—"To consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Gaols in the Colony of Natal."

No. 43.—"To amend the practice as to suing persons not in Natal."

No. 44.—"To amend 'The Native Administration Law, 1875.'"

No. 46.—"To regulate the marriage of Natives by Christian Rites."

No. 47.—"To amend and consolidate the Law of Insolvency."

No. 48.—"To repeal and re-enact with amendments the Law "No. 12, 1882, entituled 'Law to repeal and re-enact with "'amendments Law No. 26, 1878, entituled "Law for the better "' "prevention of the disease in Sheep called Scab."'"

No. 49.—"To raise a Loan for the construction, equipment, "and maintenance of certain Railway Extensions; for the con-"tinuation and completion of the Harbour Works at the Port of "Natal; for the refund of a certain sum to the General Revenue; "and for certain other Public Works."

No. 50.—"To impose certain Duties on Occupied Dwellings." [The operation of this Law has been suspended.]

Railways.

14. The number of miles open at the end of 1887 was 217½ as compared with 195 in 1886. Provision was made during 1887 for extension of the main line from Ladysmith (the present

terminus) to Sunday's River—a distance of 24½ miles, and the extension is being rapidly proceeded with. On completion of this section the railway will have been carried to the point nearest the seaport, at which coal is being mined; and as the chief obstacle to the development and profitable working of the extensive coal fields of Natal has been the excessive cost of conveying the coal to the markets, and the uncertainty of transport, the importance of extending the railway to the coal-bearing districts is one of urgent moment. It may be mentioned that of 12,938 tons of coal consumed on the railway during 1887, 5,120 tons were Natal coal, the cost of which was much below that of English coal.

15. The following are the returns of railway revenue and expenditure for 1886 and 1887:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1886 - - - -	178,287	169,484
1887 - - - -	259,364	185,409

The increase of the earnings of the railway has been very considerable, while, taking into consideration the increased number of miles open during 1887, the expenditure has been reduced.

[*Note.*—During the special session of March, 1888, a law was passed empowering the Governor to borrow the sum of 1,500,000*l*, for the further extension of the railway to the Free State and Transvaal Borders of the Colony at Van Reenen's Pass and Coldstream respectively.]

Harbour Works.

16. These works continue to proceed under the directions of the board appointed under the authority of Law 29, 1880. The plan of the works consists, broadly, in the carrying out seawards of a north training wall and south breakwater, the former of which has reached a length of about 1,900 feet, and the latter of about 1,265 feet outwards from the Bluff; the object of these structures may be shortly defined to be as follows: The north training wall to increase the scour; the south breakwater to maintain the advantage so gained by protecting the ebb tide against the prevalent seas and up-coast current, and thus to secure the deepening of the channel and the removal of the bar of sand which has hitherto blocked the entrance. The Harbour Board has suffered a great loss in the death, in December, 1887, of Mr. Edward Innes, the resident engineer, whose services have so greatly tended to the success of the works so far as they have proceeded.

17. The following table giving the least depth of water in the channel in use across the bar during the last six years is of interest

NATAL.

as indicating the improvement effected by advancement of the works:—

	Ft.	Ins.
1882 - - - - -	6	1
1883 - - - - -	6	1½
1884 - - - - -	7	2
1885 - - - - -	8	4
1886 - - - - -	8	3¾
1887 - - - - -	10	7

In 1885 three vessels of draught over 15 feet entered the harbour, eight in 1886, and eight in 1887. In 1885, out of 39 vessels of draught over 14 feet which arrived at the port 14 were brought inside; in 1886, out of 32 arrived 14 were brought inside; in 1887, out of 52 arrived 39 were brought inside. In 1886 29 vessels crossed the bar without anchoring; in 1887 58 vessels so crossed.

18. The expenditure on permanent works connected with the harbour from the date of the establishment of the Harbour Board to the present date (1st January 1881 to 31st December 1887) has been about 250,000*l.* and has been met out of loan funds.

Immigration.

19. The whole subject of immigration from Europe to Natal is under the consideration of the Government, and, pending the adoption of a new system, such immigration has been confined to the granting of a few passages at contract rates to nominated immigrants.

20. The introduction of Indian immigrants for indenture to employers of coolie labour continues, and is attended with satisfactory results. During 1887 four vessels arrived from Madras bringing 941 immigrants for allotment in the Colony, and during the same period 1,454 time-expired and other Indians returned to their native country. The number of indentured and free Indians in Natal is estimated at above 30,000.

21. The Commission appointed in 1885 to inquire into the Indian laws and regulations of the Colony and into other matters affecting the welfare of the Indian population presented, towards the close of 1887, an exhaustive and valuable report. This report is engaging the attention of the Government. From the evidence given before the Commissioners, as well as from their inspection of estates on which coolies are employed, the Commissioners are enabled to report very favourably on the general condition of the Indians living in Natal. The Commissioners' report mentions that during indentured service the condition of the Indians is, without doubt, generally good, that they are well housed, living for the most part in habitations which they declare to be best suited to their wants, that the labour that they perform is not arduous or excessive, that there is no compulsory work on Sunday, that wages are paid with

commendable regularity, that ill-treatment by masters is infrequent, that their general health is good, and that it is difficult to indicate a Colony wherein there is kinder treatment of indentured Indian labourers than in Natal, or wherein employers are more earnest in the equitable performance of their part of the contract. The report states also that free Indians *thrive* in Natal, that their wants are comparatively few, while their industrious habits cause them to prosper in nearly every occupation in which they engage.

Population.

22. The returns furnished by the resident magistrates for the several districts of the Colony show the population to have been as follows on the 31st December 1887 :—

Whites.			Indians.			Natives.			Total.		
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Grand Total.
19,330	16,536	35,866	20,317	11,995	32,312	180,196	228,726	408,922	219,843	257,257	

These numbers are approximate only, there having never been a general census of the inhabitants. In the case of the native population, the numbers are estimated by taking an average of about 3½ souls to a hut, the hut-tax collections forming the basis of calculation.

23. The Registrar General's returns for 1887 show 305 marriages by Christian rites; 1,313 births (other than of natives under native law), and 486 deaths (other than of natives). The absence of registration of births and deaths among the native population renders it impossible to arrive at any proportion of births and deaths to the general population of the Colony.

24. The climate of the Colony is very salubrious, and the health of the inhabitants is generally good.

(Signed) C. BIRD,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Natal, 17th April 1888.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 14.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1886.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
June 1888.

LONDON:
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1888.

[C.—5249.-11.]

No. 14.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1885, C.—5071; 1884, C.—4842; 1883, C.—4404; 1881, C.—3642.]

Governor BLAKE to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Newfoundland,
January 17, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1886. with the report of the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G.,
Colonial Office.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
St. John's, Newfoundland,
January 13, 1888.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1886.

I regret that I am unable to call attention to statements exhibiting a tendency to more prosperous circumstances in the Colony than those existing in 1884 and 1885; on the contrary, the condition of things in 1886 was more depressed than in either of those years.

The northern districts were especially affected, principally on account of an almost total failure of the shore fishery, but also largely from a curtailment of outfit for the Labrador fishery, which left hundreds without any means of employment. A great deal of distress and poverty was thus caused, which was intensified towards the end of the year by a serious failing in the potato crop, and it became necessary for the Government to institute extensive relief works in those districts that were most seriously affected.

A 53181. Wt. 18427.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Trade.

Under the circumstances above stated it is not surprising to find that the imports of the Colony showed a considerable decline even from the previous year. For 1886 they amounted to $6,020,035 against $6,698,500 for 1885 whilst for 1883 they had attained the large total of $9,131,464. The decrease was mostly in manufactured goods from the United Kingdom, which showed a deficiency (from the previous year) of $274,000. Articles of food supply were sold at unusually low rates and fuel stocks were imported. Flour and molasses exhibited a considerable increase, the former of something over 70,000 barrels, and the latter of 155,000 gallons. In spirits too there was an increased import of 22,600 gallons.

The exports of 1886 showed in the aggregate a small increase over those of 1885, the excess being more than accounted for by the larger quantity and enhanced price of copper and copper ore exported, the value of which in 1886 was $247,620 against $102,420 in 1885. The mining industry of the Colony, which at the present is chiefly confined to Little Bay, I am glad to remark, in passing, shows signs of permanent prosperity ; not only has the "output" of ore increased, without any appearance of exhausting the mine, but furnaces have been erected near the mine, where the ore will be reduced to pure copper, making a large saving in the item of freight. Altogether 6,723 tons of ore, regulus, and pure copper were exported in 1886.

The export of dry cod was 1,088,004 quintals, something over 50,000 quintals in excess of 1885, and it may be pointed out as of hopeful augury that a considerable proportion of the export was the production of the bank fishery, which has become an extensive and remunerative industry, especially to the southern ports of the island.

The shipments of cod oil and seal oil were also larger in 1886 than in 1885, but with smaller margin of profits, as prices ruled much lower. Cod oil being valued at $92 per tun as against $112 in 1885, and seal oil at $72 instead of $100. The shipment of lobsters largely exceeded that of 1885, being 1,459,912 lbs., against 824,064 lbs. 818,208 lbs. found a ready market in the United Kingdom. Seal skins showed an increase of 34,005, with also a small accession of value.

The total export of the Colony for 1886 was $4,862,951 of which the six articles above referred to, dry cod, cod oil, seal oil, seal skins, lobsters, and copper ore make up $4,608,050.

Revenue.

The revenue for the year from all sources (excluding loans which amounted to $719,554) and with a somewhat increased tariff was $1,040,424, less by $209,316 than in 1885 (the Customs alone being deficient $148,000), whilst the total expenditure, $1,666,662, was $290,478 more than in 1885. This over-expen-

diture is accounted for by the large relief disbursements referred to in the second paragraph of this report. NEWFOUNDLAND.

Shipbuilding.

With a larger prosecution of the bank fishery has come a considerable increase in the allied industry of shipbuilding. The vessels that are built are mostly of small tonnage, 30 to 90 tons and encouragement is given by the Government, under Act of the Legislature, by a bounty of $2.00 per ton. The industry is chiefly confined to the northern districts where there are ample timber resources, and where it furnishes the people with employment during the winter, a season of the year when they are unable to continue fishing. The number of vessels built in 1886 was 106, having a tonnage of 3,784 tons.

Agriculture.

In the legislation of 1886 is an Act for the Promotion of Agriculture, which provides for a bounty of $6 per acre on any land cleared for cultivation in the Colony subsequent to the passing of the Act, and also provides for the establishment of agricultural districts, where a bounty of $20 per acre may be given to a settler for the first five acres cleared, and $10 for each additional acre.

By an address of the Legislature, 1886, the Government were requested to construct agricultural roads in different parts of the Colony, and the necessity for relief work before referred to was made the occasion for constructing many miles of such roads.

It is expected that from these measures will result a large increase of cultivated land. Nothing tends more to the independence and comfort of the fishermen of the Colony than the cultivation by them of a few acres of land, and the Government are anxious to give every reasonable inducement to secure so desirable a result. The number of grants issued in 1886 was 260 of 3,461 acres, and 84,346 acres in addition were granted to the telegraph and railway companies under their charters.

Banks.—Savings Bank.

The business of this bank showed, as might be anticipated from the general condition of the Colony, a decrease in its deposits, but not, however, to any great extent; the amount held by the bank in 1886 was $1,749,613.20, and in 1885 $1,787,054.49. The number of depositors slightly increased, being 3,935 in 1886 and 3,815 in 1885. $20,000 were added to the public debt sinking fund, which at the end of 1886 amounted to $118,000.

The regular banking business of the Colony is all transacted by two banks, the Union and Commercial, both of which have exhibited continued growth and almost phenomenal success.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Union Bank was incorporated in 1854 with a capital of $200,000. The stock is now $456,000, the additional capital having been created by the profits of the institution. The reserve is $240,000 and the dividend for 1886 15%. The Commercial Bank was incorporated in 1858 with a capital of $200,000. Its stock has since been increased to $306,000, also by means of its profits, and its reserve is $80,000. Dividend for last year 9%.

Education.

The returns under this head exhibit a fairly satisfactory progress. The total number of schools in the Colony supported or aided by Government grants is 517, showing an attendance of 28,581, 14,963 males and 13,618 females. The cost of each pupil to the Colony in 1886 was $4.17, the total educational grant being $119,642.75 (the cost of each pupil in the public schools of Ontario is $7.01). The per-centage of the population attending school is 14·58, which, though not large, is as much as can reasonably be expected with the present insufficient grant and the exceptionally unfavourable circumstances presented by a small population scattered over some thousands of miles of coast line.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) M. FENELON,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Henry A. Blake, Esq., C.M.G.,
Governor of Newfoundland.

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
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3	Gambia - - -	„	0 1
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6	Tobago - - -	1887	0 1
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12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	—	1 4
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands -	1887	0 2½

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 38.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
December 1888.

LONDON:
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1888.

[C.—5249.-31.]

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No. 38.

NEW GUINEA.

JOHN DOUGLAS, Esq., to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR, Brisbane, January 24, 1888.

I FORWARD herewith six copies of my Report for 1887, together with statements of receipts and expenditure. To this paper there are attached several Appendices which contain matter of interest in connexion with the history of the current year.

I would particularly direct your attention to Mr. Deputy Commissioner Milman's report in reference to the Western Division of the Protected Territory, and to Mr. Deputy Commissioner Romilly's reports in connexion with native affairs in the Eastern Division.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS.

The Right Hon.
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT.

I supply a brief *résumé* of the work of the year, together with a statement of receipts and expenditure from the 1st of December 1886 to the 30th of November 1887.

Early in the year I visited Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney in order to receive the contributions then due on account of the Protectorate, in accordance with the proportionate amounts agreed to during the tenure in office of the late Sir Peter Scratchley. I received no contribution from South Australia, and this has led to a considerable amount of correspondence, copies of which have been duly forwarded to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies. I felt it to be my duty to endeavour to obtain a recognition from the contributing Colonies of the deficiency thus accruing. Up to the present time, however, I have not been able to secure this except from the Colony of Queensland. I returned to Thursday Island in March, and shortly after I left in the "Truganini" steamer for the Louisiade Archipelago, in order to take back to their homes some of the islanders who had worked for three years on sugar plantations in Queensland. This afforded me an opportunity of visiting a most interesting group of islands included within the limits of the Protectorate, and enabled me to become acquainted with a locality which is now being resorted to

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

by pearl-shellers from Torres Straits. Returning to Port Moresby from the Louisiade, I resided there continuously from May to November, making occasional visits to Motu Motu, Yule Island, Kappa Kappa, Kerepunu, and other places along the coast in the Central Division.

Mr. Assistant Deputy Commissioner Musgrave, who had previously resided at Port Moresby, and who had suffered from the effects of the climate, obtained leave of absence for six months, and this leave was extended by the authority of the Colonial Office. Mr. Deputy Commissioner Romilly, who had been absent on sick leave, at the same time returned from England, where he had superintended the arrangement of the New Guinea Court at the Colonial Exhibition. He was then for some months stationed at the east end of the Protectorate, and he is now at Port Moresby. Mr. Musgrave has returned from his leave. Mr. Frank Lawes has been stationed at Dinner Island for the last nine months, and is due for leave as soon as I can supply his place.

Western Division.

For purposes of administration three centres of action have hitherto been recognised. The western portion of the Protectorate extends from the Dutch boundary to the Aird River; the central portion extends from the Aird to Toulon Island; and the eastern portion from Toulon to Rossel Island. The western portion has been under the supervision of Mr. Milman, the Resident at Thursday Island, who has occasionally visited the coast. It was from Thursday Island that the expedition, under the orders of Mr. Theodore Bevan, was organised by Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co., in order to explore the country at the head of the Papuan Gulf, in the vicinity of the Aird; and it was from Thursday Island that Mr. Milman conveyed Mr. Bevan to the same locality at a later period of the year. On the last occasion Mr. Bevan was materially assisted by Mr. Hemmy, whose services were obtained from the Queensland Government, the steam launch he used being supplied by the Government of New South Wales.

In the Appendices will be found an interesting report from Mr. Milman, who has acted for me as a Deputy Commissioner.

I think it is very desirable that a stern-wheel steamer, drawing not more than three feet, should be obtained for service in the Fly and the other rivers in this western portion of the Protectorate of which so little is at present known, and I have suggested that the South Australian deficit, if ultimately it is paid by the contributing Colonies, should be appropriated for this purpose. An officer should be stationed permanently in the waters of the western division, and he could live on board such a vessel as I describe, which should be capable of navigating the shoal waters of the coast. Until such a steamer is obtained it is not probable that we shall become much better acquainted with the interesting tribes of the Fly or the numerous rivers which fall into the Papuan Gulf.

Central Division.

At Motu Motu, on the western confines of the district, Mr. Edelfelt has been stationed, primarily as the commercial agent of Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co., and incidentally as an officer of the Protectorate, in which capacity he has received a small salary from me. Motu Motu is situated at the mouth of the Williams, and is the centre of a rich sago district. The natives are a fine race and are hopeful savages. Mr. Edelfelt, who was accompanied by his wife, has acquired a considerable influence over them, and has become familiar with their language. and customs. The painful incident of the murder of Tauraki, the South Sea Islander, and of four friendly natives, together with the reprisals which in consequence it was necessary to make, are referred to in a Parliamentary return which is published as an Appendix to this Report. The neighbourhood is perfectly quiet now, but the commercial agency of Mr. Edelfelt has not been a success, and his services in connexion with Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co. will probably, I think, shortly come to an end. The purchase and preparation of sago has not been a remunerative venture. I hope, however, to find employment for Mr. Edelfelt on the coast, for he has proved himself to be an intelligent officer in matters connected with native affairs. At Yule Island, some sixty miles to the eastward of Motu Motu, the French Catholic Mission have established themselves, and they have already acquired a considerable influence among the natives of Hall Sound and the district of Mount Yule. Some new rivers have been explored by them, and many populous villages have been visited. Father Navarre, the head of the mission, who is now on a visit to Europe, has addressed a letter to me, which is published herewith.

Passing on further east, the next important centre is that of Manu Manu. Here it was that Mr. Page was engaged in cutting cedar, of which a considerable qnantity had been obtained. I regret to say that it still lies rotting in the scrub, not a single cargo having yet been exported. The natives of this district are now perfectly peaceable. It is resorted to by bird-hunters and collectors of objects of natural history, and it is sometimes visited by explorers. One of these—Mr. Livesey—made an excursion through this district during this season, and visited some villages on the north-western spurs of Mount Owen Stanley. Passing from the Manu Manu District we next reach Port Moresby. At this place—the well-established central station of the London Missionary Society—considerable improvements have been effected during the past year. The township of Granville has been formed at Paga Point on a site which I think is likely to prove much more healthy than the neighbourhood of the native village where some rude European habitations have been erected. There is, moreover, deep water close in shore, and a jetty has been built which provides the requisite facilities for landing. Mr. Goldie has built a commodious store on ground which I have recommended shall be granted to him in lieu of that surrendered by him.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

The old store in the vicinity of the native village has been abandoned as such, and is now used as a native school-house. A building containing one large room, together with four smaller rooms suitable for offices, has been erected close to the landing-place at Granville. The small rooms are at present used as a shipping office, post office, and store-rooms. The large room is made available as a reading-room, where the *Times*, the illustrated papers, the leading Australian journals, and a few periodicals can be seen. Here also it has been customary to hold service on Sundays for the white people of Port Moresby, at which the resident missionaries have always kindly assisted. A guest and acommodation house has also been erected on the rising ground above Mr. Goldie's store. It is built of wood and iron, and contains two good sitting-rooms and eight bedrooms, together with the usual offices, kitchens, and bath-room—the whole being surrounded by verandahs. It is now rented by Mr. de Raeve, who has furnished it adequately, and visitors to the coast can here obtain all the homely comforts procurable in New Guinea at a reasonable cost, special provision being made against the sale of intoxicating liquors. A considerable area of ground, estimated at 900 acres, has been enclosed as a paddock, several waterholes have been cleaned out and enlarged, and a good bridle-path has been cut round the somewhat precipitous sides of Goldie Law. All the horses running in the neighbourhood of Port Moresby, numbering now some fifty head and owned in about equal proportions by the Government, the Mission Society, and Mr. Goldie, have been mustered. The young stock have been cut and branded, and an Arab stallion bred in Queensland has been purchased for stud purposes. Six heifers and an Ayrshire bull have also been imported. They are now perfectly domesticated, and the natives have become quite accustomed to them. In a few months' time there will be a nice little herd of milking cows.

Water has been laid on in pipes to the native village. This supply, from an excellent spring on the hillside, is thoroughly appreciated by the women and children, who used to have to carry their water in pitchers for a distance of fully half a mile. It is now accessible to all in sufficient quantity, and conduces much to health and cleanliness. The supply of water previously laid on in pipes for the use of the shipping has been further utilised for irrigating a portion of ground which has been enclosed for gardening purposes, and I am in hopes that a good supply of vegetables may now always be obtained even in the driest season. A considerable number of fruit-trees have been planted. These include mangoes, oranges, lemons, custard apples, guavas, and several varieties of bananas from Queensland, the indigenous bananas being very inferior to the choicer varieties grown in Australia. The formation of the garden thus commenced was carried out under the direction of Mr. Carl Hartmann, an enthusiastic horticulturist, who came to New Guinea on my invitation. I regret very much to add that Mr. Hartmann died shortly after his return to Queensland, from the effects of fever which had no doubt

been contracted while in New Guinea. For the few months when he was residing at Port Moresby he displayed great energy and evinced much interest in the place. The native village is cleaner than it was, though there is still plenty of room for further improvement. The natives no longer bury their dead in the immediate vicinity of their houses, and their prejudices in this respect have so far been overcome that the cemetery which has been provided is now frequently used, though there have been cases in which the dead bodies have been carried to neighbouring villages for interment. The chief of the village, Ah-oo-doo, receives a small subsidy in the form of a monthly dole of rice, and he is supposed to promote order and cleanliness among the people, but he is not a man of much strength of character, and his paternal injunctions in this respect are not always attended to. I have endeavoured to encourage the planting of cocoanuts by the natives. There are many localities in the neighbourhood of Port Moresby where they would grow just as well as they do at Hula, from which place canoe-loads are often brought up for sale at Hanuabada. The difficulty, however, consists in this: that the cocoanut, while germinating, and before it has fairly taken root, is considered a great delicacy. While in this condition the natives, young and old alike, possess themselves of it whenever they can, and it is difficult to detect them in the act. The consequence is that whenever a nut is placed in the ground it is carefully watched and almost immediately stolen when it has reached its mature stage as a delicacy.

During the year a considerable amount of work has been done by native labour. They work in bands very fairly for a few days, but they do not care to do so continuously, and they require close watching. The best work has been done by contract. They are beginning to understand the value of money, and they prefer shillings or half-crowns and even sovereigns to their equivalent in rice or tobacco. This indicates a considerable advance in the process of change which is called civilisation.

Leaving Port Moresby, the district next in importance in this division is that of Kappa Kappa and Rigo, about thirty miles to the eastward. At Kappa Kappa there is fair anchorage in an open roadstead within the barrier reef. Rigo is a village about seven or eight miles from Kappa Kappa, where a mission teacher is stationed, and between these two places a Government station has been formed where Mr. George Hunter lives. The district itself is an important one, and from it access is obtained to the valley of the Kemp Welch River, where there are many native villages, all of the inhabitants living more or less in dread of one another. Mr. George Hunter has, during the time he has resided at Rigo, exercised a considerable controlling influence over these tribes. It is quite certain that there are now much fewer acts of violence than there used to be.

Early in the year Mr. George Hunter, accompanied by Mr. Hartmann, visited the tribes living on the slopes of Mount Obree at the head of the Kemp Welch Valley. He thus prepared the

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

way for the successful ascent of Mount Obree by Mr. Cuthbertson under the auspices of the Geographical Society of Victoria. On both occasions Mr. Hunter assisted materially in carrying out these most interesting examinations of a portion of the country which had not previously been visited by white men.

East of Kappa Kappa lie the important districts of Hula, Kalo, Kerepunu, and Aroma. They have frequently been visited by myself and by other officers of the Government, and though in these districts there have been occasional outrages, the natives now live in comparative peace with one another. At Kerepunu, in September, I conducted an inquiry into a very deliberate murder case, and adjudged reparation to be made by the offenders. I attach some importance to this case, as I constituted three of the principal men of Kerepunu assessors with me in the investigation of it, and it was they who adjudged the amount of the penalty to be paid. Aroma is at present the limit of our area of influence in the Central division. Between Aroma and Toulon Island we have seldom any communications with the natives.

Eastern Division.

This, for practical purposes, commences at South Cape. Du Faure Island and Orangerie Bay have been visited occasionally, and there are some trading relations between South Cape and the natives of Mullen's Harbour. It was at Orangerie Bay that the destruction of the "Cecilia" cutter took place, and it was from that place that Gustave Riccius was rescued by the prompt action of Ah Gim, a native of China, who has lived at South Cape for some years. Samarai or Dinner Island is at present the centre of action in the Eastern division. I visited this locality in April, and stationed there Mr. Frank Lawes as agent of the Government. Mr. Lawes has since then resided continuously on the island. He has an excellent whaleboat and a native boat's crew under him, and I am much pleased with the manner in which he has carried out his duties. Messrs. Kissack and Thompson, who have established a store at Samarai, have extended their trading relations with the inhabitants of Milne Bay. Several improvements have been carried out—a new coal-shed, a boat-house, and a house built of native material for the boatmen, have been erected. A drain has been cut through the central and swampy portion of the island. Much of the undergrowth has been cleared away, and a jetty has been built adjoining Messrs. Kissack and Thompson's store. Mr. Frank Lawes still occupies the quarters I rented last year from the London Missionary Society, but this now provides very insufficient accommodation, and I have entered into a contract for a good commodious house of native material to be erected on Quato, an island lying to the southward and westward of Samarai, about a mile and a half off. I have purchased this beautiful little island from the natives; there is plenty of good running water on it; there is no swamp on it, and it is not too far from the anchorage off Samarai. I think it is likely to prove more healthy

than Samarai, and, if on trial it proves to be so, a good permanent house should be erected here for the Resident Government Officer. He should be relieved occasionally, and under the existing conditions of residence he should have three months' leave of absence every year.

Early in the year the "Pride of the Lagoon" schooner, from Cooktown, got on shore in Mudge Bay on Moresby Island, not far from Samarai. Her crew, consisting of six Chinamen, were killed by the natives, and the vessel was cut to pieces. This caused very strained relations with the inhabitants of Moresby Island, and led to some reprisals being made by Captain Musgrave in H.M.S. "Rapid." He visited them more than once. They admitted their fault, sued for peace, and they have lately been on friendly terms with us, occasionally visiting Samarai.

A pearl-shelling fleet of eight boats from Thursday Island visited Samarai early in the year. They found shell in China Straits, but passed rapidly on to the Louisiade Archipelago, where fine shell was found in Joannet Harbour, though in deep water—in water too deep for ordinary dress-diving operations. Several divers engaged in this industry have succumbed to the fatal effects of remaining below in water over twenty fathoms in depth. There is plenty of shell, but at these depths, and with the consequent loss of life, it will not pay to win it. I do not, therefore, anticipate any great extension of the pearl-shelling industry, unless it is found in shallow water.

Mr. Deputy Commissioner Romilly was stationed for some months in this portion of the Protectorate, and was living on board the "Hygeia" schooner, which I purchased for the use of officers of the Protectorate while I was in Sydney. Two interesting papers of Mr. Romilly's are published as Appendices to this Report.

Exploration.

I have already referred to several exploring parties which have traversed portions of British New Guinea during the past year. Mr. Theodore Bevan has traced out and surveyed some rivers falling into the Papuan Gulf. Mr. Cuthbertson and Mr. George Hunter explored the valley of the Kemp Welch, and ascended Mount Obree. Later on in the year I fitted out an expedition under Mr. H. O. Forbes, for the purpose of ascertaining if Mount Owen Stanley could be ascended from the head of the Goldie. I regret to say that Mr. Forbes met with much opposition from the natives, which culminated in his camp being attacked and looted during his absence. Mr. Forbes's report in connexion with this expedition will be found attached to these papers.

Future Administration.

Consequent on the agreement arrived at between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Queensland, and following up the subsequent passing of an Act by the Queensland Legislature,

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

I have been advised that I shall be required shortly to proclaim sovereignty on the coast of British New Guinea. I await further instructions on this point. I take this opportunity of again referring to a matter which I mentioned in my report of last year: it is necessary that a small but efficient body of men who can act as police should be organised, and become available for service on any portion of the coast. This will prove to be the best guarantee for peace. With peace and security of property will come other blessings which we hope may follow with the ascendancy of British law. In its technical sense it will be impossible to apply British law to native affairs for many years to come. Personal Government must to a great extent prevail, and a substantial basis of authority must be supplied in a small armed force which can act at any time if necessary. It is most desirable that Her Majesty's ships of war should continue to visit the coast, but they should not be required to undertake police duties. Now that a permanent revenue is about to be supplied under the agreement with the Colony of Queensland, acting in concert with New South Wales and Victoria, one of the first things which should be done is to organise such a force as I have referred to. Twenty men would suffice. They should be good boatmen, and in the first instance they should be South Sea Islanders. After a while a few natives of New Guinea may be incorporated with the force, and ultimately it may be found possible to recruit them entirely from the natives of New Guinea.

In conclusion, I beg to tender my thanks to the subordinate officers of the Government of the Protectorate who have served under my immediate orders. I mention especially my accountant and private secretary, Mr. Hely, who has always proved an efficient assistant to me. I recommend him strongly for employment under the new administration which will shortly be formed, should he desire to obtain office. To Mr. Robert Hunter I am also indebted for faithful and intelligent service, especially in the Motu Motu affair, which he carried out under my instructions to my satisfaction and to his own credit. I wish also to mention Maka, the interpreter, as most deserving of approbation. I have already referred to Mr. George Hunter, to Mr. Edelfelt, and to Mr. Frank Lawes, all of whom have done good work in their respective positions.

JOHN DOUGLAS,
Her Majesty's Special Commissioner
for British New Guinea.

Brisbane, 31st December 1887.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FROM 1ST DECEMBER 1886 TO 31ST MAY 1887.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Statement showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure

Ledger Folio.	DR.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	To BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 30TH NOVEMBER, 1886 - - - - - - -	—	15 1 4
	To GRANTS IN AID—		
38	25th February, Western Australian Government to 31st May 1887 - - - - - - -	161 16 9	
39	18th February, New South Wales Government to 31st May 1887 - - - - - - -	4,084 14 4	
	£ s. d.		
40	21st January, Victorian Government to 30th November 1886 - - - 2,346 14 4		
40	26th May, Victorian Government to 31st May 1887 - - - 2,346 14 4		
		4,693 8 8	
43	4th January, Queensland Government (Moiety) to 31st May 1887* - - - - - -	581 11 11	
44	26th January, Tasmanian Government (Moiety) to 31st May 1887* - - - - - -	316 2 6	
			9,837 14 2
	To OTHER RECEIPTS—		
24	Proceeds of sale of reclaimed stores - - -	49 8 5	
24	Rent of Kissack and Co.'s site, Samarai - - -	5 0 0	
94	Export duty on 25,894 feet of cedar - - -	12 19 0	
			67 7 5
	Carried forward - - - - - -		9,920 2 11

* Queensland and Tasmanian contributions to 30th Nov. 1886.

from 1*st December* 1886 *to* 31*st May* 1887.

Ledger Folio.	CR.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	BY ESTABLISHMENTS—			
	SALARIES FIXED—			
2	Special Commissioner from 1st December 1886 to 31st May 1887 - - -	1,250 0 0		
3	Deputy Commissioner - - - -	75 0 0		
5	Assistant Deputy Commissioner from 1st December 1886 to 31st May 1887 -	350 0 0		
6, 7	Accountant and Acting Private Secretary from 1st December 1886 to 31st May 1887 -	175 0 0		
			1,850 0 0	
	ALLOWANCES—			
47	Travelling Expenses, Special Commissioner and Staff - - - - -	—	372 16 6	
				2,222 16 6
	BY SERVICES (EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS)—			
	SCHOONER "GOVERNOR CAIRNS"—	£ s. d.		
52	Stores and Provisions - -	119 15 6		
54	Wages - - - -	20 0 0		
55	Medicines - - - -	6 15 6		
56	Fittings - - - -	14 10 0		
56	Ballasting - - - -	20 9 6		
57	Marine Stores - - -	19 3 6		
58	Incidental Expenses - -	19 1 0		
59	Charter Money, 1st May 1886 to 31st March 1887 - - -	275 0 0		
59	Repairs - -	34 17 9		
		529 12 9		
	MAIL SERVICE—			
64	Burns, Philp, and Co. (Six Months' Contract)	300 0 0		
			829 12 9	
	THURSDAY ISLAND ESTABLISHMENT—			
8	Deputy Commissioner Milman, salary from 6th August 1886 to 31st March 1887 -	—	65 6 5	
	MOTU MOTU ESTABLISHMENT—			
9	Salary of Agent from November 1886 to April 1887 - - - -	—	25 0 0	
	PORT MORESBY ESTABLISHMENT—			
	Salaries and Wages—	£ s. d.		
80	Clerical assistance, from 1st December 1886 to 31st March 1887 - - - -	66 13 4		
80	Storekeeper, from 1st to 31st May 1887 - - -	15 0 0		
81, 82	Government assistants, from 1st December 1886 to 31st May 1887 - - - -	236 8 0		
83	General Wages, from 1st December 1886 to 31st May 1887 -	387 14 7		
87	Master of cutter, from 1st December 1886 to 31st May 1887 -	86 2 6		
		791 18 5		
	Allowances—			
80	Clerical assistant, lodging allowance, from 1st December 1886 to 31st March 1887 - -	13 6 8		
84	Travelling expenses - -	22 0 0		
		35 6 8		
	Miscellaneous Expenditure—			
60	Purchase of cattle - -	41 19 2		
67	Various buildings, furniture account - - - -	41 6 5		
67	Medicines - - - -	22 9 1		
68	Government offices, building -	455 15 5		
68	Erima, cottage, improvements -	16 3 6		
69	Fencing, labour and material -	82 15 9		
70	Building material - -	84 1 5		
71	Water supply, pipes, &c. -	143 15 5		
71	Tools - - - -	17 0 0		
72	Provisions and trade - -	272 2 5		
73	Cutter "Maino," stores - -	19 1 9		
75	Whale boat and fittings - -	45 5 6		
76	Horses, Purchase of - -	60 0 0		
77	Saddlery - - - -	10 12 0		
78	Accommodation house, building	648 14 11		
78	Native school, building - -	400 0 0		
	Carried forward - -	-		2,222 16 6

BRITISH NEW GIUNEA.

Statement showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure

Ledger Folio.	DR.	£	s.	d.
	Brought forward - - - - - - - -	9,920	2	11
		9,920	2	11

from 1*st December* 1886 *to* 31*st May* 1887—cont.

Ledger Folio.	Cr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Brought forward - -			
	BY SERVICES (EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS)—*cont.*			
	PORT MORESBY ESTABLISHMENT—*cont.*			
	Miscellaneous Expenditure—cont. £ s. d.			
79	Freight and Insurance - - 8 11 0			
88	Men's quarters - - - 62 19 9			
90	Moorings and buoys - - 22 7 7			
95	Agricultural and horticultural - 76 13 0			
89	Incidental expenses - - 56 17 3			
		2,588 11 4		
			3,415 16 5	
	DINNER ISLAND ESTABLISHMENT—			
	Salaries—			
4, 98	Government agent, from 1st December 1886 to 31st May 1887 - - -	324 14 0		
	Contingencies—			
97	Cutters "Pioneer" and "Septimus," Charter of - - 15 0 0			
99	Purchase of boat - - - 36 0 0			
35	Purchase of Island of Quato - 10 3 2			
97	Incidental expenses - - 41 5 1			
62	Charter of "Coral Sea" from 1st December 1886 to 10th March 1887 - - - 132 18 0			
		235 6 3		
			560 0 3	
	JOANNET ISLAND EXPEDITION—			
101	Salaries, wages - - - - -	104 13 4		
101	Cutter "Lizzie," Hire of - - -	68 0 0		
	Trade and provisions - - - -	50 8 11		
	Travelling expenses - - - -	40 0 0		
	Incidential expenses - - - -	32 15 0		
			295 17 3	
	RETURN OF LOUISIADE ISLANDERS—			
102	Trade, &c. - - - - -	79 9 2		
102	Pilotage - - - - - -	20 0 0		
102	Salary, Government Agent - - -	30 0 0		
102	Travelling expenses - - - -	10 19 0		
			140 8 2	
	GENERAL CONTINGENT EXPENDITURE—			
22	Arms and ammunition - - -	90 0 0		
49	Cablegrams - - - - -	11 14 11		
50	Incidental expenses - - - -	40 16 3		
66	Schooner "Hygeia," Purchase of - -	1,100 0 0		
100	Agency fees, &c. - - - -	13 19 11		
			1,256 11 1	
				6,558 12 4
				8,811 8 10
	BY BALANCE - - - - - -	—	—	1,108 14 1
				9,920 2 11

BINGHAM A. HELY,
Accountant.

JOHN DOUGLAS,
Special Commissioner.

Granville, British New Guinea,
31st July 1887.

CERTIFICATE OF AUDIT.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of the Protectorate of British New Guinea for the period between the 1st of December 1886 and the 31st of May 1887, amounting on the Debit side (including the sum of £15 1*s.* 4*d.* balance brought forward) to £9,920 2*s.* 11*d.*, and on the Credit side to £8,811 8*s.* 10*d.*; and find that all sums received have been duly brought to account; and that the several payments made have been correctly computed, and are supported by duly certified and acquitted vouchers.

W. L. G. DREW,
Auditor-General.

Department of Audit, Queensland,
Brisbane, 13th September 1887.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Statement showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure

DR.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 31ST MAY -	—	1,108 14 1
To GRANTS IN AID—		
New South Wales, six months' contribution to 30th November 1887 - - - - - - - - - -	2,042 7 2	
Victoria, six months' contribution to 30th November 1887 - -	2,346 14 4	
New Zealand, twelve months' contribution to 31st May 1887 -	2,668 18 9	
Queensland, twelve months' contribution to 30th November 1887 -	1,163 3 10	
Ditto towards making good deficiency caused by withdrawal of South Australia, eighteen months ended 30th November 1887 - - - - -	198 9 0	
		8,419 13 1
To OTHER RECEIPTS—		
Proceeds of sale of surplus stores - - - - -	116 16 3	
Sundry gun licenses - - - - - - -	8 10 0	
Rent of Kissack and Company's station sites on Dinner and Quato Islands, for twelve months ending 30th June 1888 - - -	10 0 0	
Export duty on cedar (177,300 feet at 1*s.* per 100 feet) - -	88 13 0	
Bank interest - - - - - - - - -	47 14 3	
		271 13 6
Carried forward - - - - - - - - -		9,800 0 8

from 1st June to 30th November 1887.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

CR.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
BY ESTABLISHMENTS—			
SALARIES (FIXED)—			
Special Commissioner from 1st June to 30th November	1,250 0 0		
Deputy Commissioner from 1st January to 30th November	120 5 7		
Assistant Deputy Commissioner from 1st June to 31st December	284 2 9		
Accountant and Acting Private Secretary from 1st June to 30th November	150 0 0		
		1,804 8 4	
ALLOWANCES—			
Travelling expenses, Special Commissioner and staff	—	155 19 0	
			1,960 7 4
BY SERVICES (EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS)—			
MAIL SERVICE—			
Burns, Philp, and Co. (six months)	300 0 0		
SCHOONER "HYGEIA"—			
Travelling expenses and incidentals — £ 22 8 3			
Wages — 71 14 0			
Stores and clothing — 17 2 2			
Fittings, &c. — 12 7 6			
Repairs — 38 10 5			
	162 2 4		
SCHOONER "GOVERNOR CAIRNS"—			
Wages — 18 19 7			
Survey of hull and incidental expenses — 48 11 0			
	67 10 7		
		529 12 11	
THURSDAY ISLAND ESTABLISHMENT—			
Deputy Commissioner, salary, 1st April to 31st December	—	75 0 0	
PORT MORESBY ESTABLISHMENT—			
Salaries and Wages—			
Health officer, 1st July to 31st December — 200 0 0			
Clerical assistance, 1st June to 30th November — 50 0 0			
Government assistants, 1st June to 31st October — 200 0 0			
Master of cutter, 1st June to 31st October — 75 0 0			
General wages, 1st June to 31st October — 424 8 5			
	949 8 5		
Allowances—			
Travelling expenses	18 16 0		
Miscellaneous Expenditure—			
Purchase of cattle (freight) — 10 0 0			
Various buildings, furniture account — 35 16 3			
Public offices, additions to — 379 17 1			
Fencing, &c. — 132 8 4			
Building material — 25 1 9			
Water supply — 30 0 0			
Provisions and trade — 174 12 6			
Cutter "Maino," stores and ballast — 37 9 11			
Ditto repairs of — 22 6 0			
Horses and saddlery, purchase of — 60 14 0			
Bungalow, additions to — 47 1 0			
Accommodation house, additions to — 108 10 0			
Freight, &c. — 45 4 2			
Roadmaking — 55 19 0			
Agricultural and horticultural— £ s. d.			
Wages — 60 0 0			
Plants — 18 4 6			
— 78 4 6			
Incidental expenses — 69 6 1			
	1,313 0 7		
		2,281 5 0	
Carried forward		2,885 17 11	1,960 7 4

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Statement showing the Total Receipts and Expenditure

	Dr.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward		9,800	0	8
		9,800	0	8

Cr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward - - - -	—	2,885 17 11	1,960 7 4
BY SERVICES (EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS)—*cont.*			
SAMARAI (DINNER ISLAND) ESTABLISHMENT—			
Salaries—			
Government agent, six months ended 31st December - - - - - -	210 0 0		
Contingencies— £ s. d.			
Wages - - - - - 12 5 4			
Boathouse and men's quarters - - 15 0 0			
Draining swamp - - - - 35 0 0			
Building material - - - 108 11 6			
Furniture - - - - - 18 7 6			
Incidental expenses - - - 26 4 5			
	215 18 9		
		425 18 9	
LOUISIADE ISLANDERS, RETURN OF—			
Medical inspection fees - - - 66 3 0			
Travelling expenses - - - - 45 5 0			
	—	111 8 0	
MOTU MOTU EXPEDITION—			
Wages - - - - - - -	61 0 0		
Charter of "P.T.M." and "Ada" - - -	7 0 0		
		68 0 0	
EXPLORATIONS—			
Edelfelt's expedition to St. Joseph River - -	17 10 0		
Forbes's „ „ Owen Stanley Range -	135 10 6		
		153 0 6	
GENERAL CONTINGENT EXPENDITURE—			
Audit fees for twelve months ended 31st May 1887 -	50 0 0		
Arms and ammunition - - - - -	23 14 0		
Incidental expenses, cablegrams, &c. - -	58 19 1		
Agency fees - - - - - -	12 5 1		
		144 18 2	
			3,789 3 4
			5,749 10 8
BY BALANCE ON 30TH NOVEMBER 1887 - -	—	—	4,050 10 0
			9,800 0 8

BINGHAM A. HELY,
Accountant.

JOHN DOUGLAS,
Special Commissioner.

Granville, British New Guinea,
December 1887.

CERTIFICATE OF AUDIT.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of the Protectorate of British New Guinea for the period between the 1st June 1887 and 30th November 1887, amounting on the Debit side (including the sum of £1,108 14*s.* 1*d.*, balance brought forward) to £9,800 0*s.* 8*d.*, and on the Credit side to £5,749 10*s.* 8*d.*; and find that all sums received have been duly brought to account; and that the several payments made have been correctly computed, and are supported by duly certified and acquitted vouchers.

W. L. G. DREW,
Auditor-General.

Department of Audit, Queensland,
Brisbane, 17th January 1888.

APPENDIX A.

Protectorate of British New Guinea.

Statement showing the Contributions in Aid due from and made by the several Contributing Colonies for the Financial Years ending 31st of May 1885, 1886, and 1887 respectively.

Contributing Colony.	Contributions for Three Years.	Contributions actually paid for financial Year ended						Amount over-paid.	Amount short-paid.
		1st June 1885.		1st June 1886.		1st June 1887.			
		Date.	Amount.	Date.	Amount.	Date.	Amount.		
	£ s. d.	1885.	£ s. d.	1886.	£ s. d.	1887.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Victoria - - -	14,080 6 0	19th May -	4,693 8 8	1st April -	4,337 19 2	21st January -	2,346 14 4	—	—
				3rd „ -	355 9 6	26th May -	2,346 14 4		
New South Wales - -	12,254 3 0	22nd „ -	4,084 14 4	22nd „ -	4,084 14 4	18th February	4,084 14 4	—	—
*New Zealand - - -	8,006 16 3	1st June -	2,668 18 9	23rd July -	2,668 18 9	18th July -	2,668 18 9	—	—
South Australia - -	4,573 14 9	22nd May -	1,524 11 7	9th April -	1,524 11 7	—	—	—	1,524 11 7
Queensland - - -	3,489 11 3	19th „ -	1,500 0 0	29th „ -	826 7 6	4th January	581 11 11	†132 6 1	—
						4th July -	713 17 11		
Tasmania - - -	1,890 18 6	23rd June -	600 0 0	2nd „ -	632 5 0	26th January	316 2 6	—	312 4 10
				25th June -	30 6 2				
Western Australia - -	485 10 3	1886. 2nd April -	161 16 9	15th April -	161 16 9	15th February	161 16 9	—	—
Fiji - - - -	219 0 0	1885. 26th June -	100 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	119 0 0
Total - -	45,000 0 0		15,333 10 1		14,622 8 9		13,220 10 10	132 6 1	1,955 16 5

* New Zealand contends that her contributions commence on 1st June 1885, and that she, consequentl has paid up to 1st June 1888.
† Queensland's quota on account of South Australia's contributions.

APPENDIX B.

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER to the GOVERNORS of the CONTRIBUTING COLONIES.

(Circular.)

SIR, Thursday Island, March 19, 1887.

HIS Excellency the Governor of South Australia having intimated to me that no contribution will be made towards the expenses of the British Protectorate in New Guinea by that Colony for the current financial year ending the 1st of June next, it became my duty to consider in what way the deficit thus arising in the amount of 15,000*l.*, guaranteed to Her Majesty's Government, could be met.

2. On reference to the official correspondence it appeared to me to be not unreasonable to conclude that the Governments of Victoria and Queensland would, in virtue of their telegrams to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, bearing date respectively 4th and 1st July 1884, accept this responsibility.

3. It is held, however, by the Government of Victoria that the guarantee thus given only referred to the first year of contribution, and the Act of Parliament passed in Queensland, which rules the action of that Government, only authorises a payment in proportion to the population of the Colony as compared with the population of the other contributing Colonies. The Government of Queensland is willing to recognise its obligations in this respect.

4. I propose accordingly that the deficit of 1,524*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.* thus accruing should be met by the several contributing Colonies in the following proportions, shown in the accompanying statement, and I have to request your Excellency to submit the adjustment to your advisers for their approval.

5. I shall hope to be advised by your Excellency that this arrangement will be accepted as satisfactory, and that the sum of 18*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* will be remitted to me in accordance therewith.

6. I regret extremely that this application should be rendered necessary, but I am bound, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, to secure the annual payment which has been promised. I cannot venture to make a further request to the Government of South Australia for a payment which has been categorically refused, and I am impelled most reluctantly to have recourse to the proposal I now make in order to secure a settlement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS,
Special Commissioner.

His Excellency the
Governor of Western Australia.

And to the Governors of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
New South Wales - - -	464	13	7
Victoria - - - -	533	18	10
Tasmania - - - -	71	13	4
New Zealand - - -	303	11	8

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Memorandum showing the Amount of the Contributions of the several Colonies in Support of the Protectorate of New Guinea.

Colony.	Former Contribution.	Additional Amount of Contribution* required to make good that of South Australia withdrawn.	Total now required.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Victoria - - -	4,693 8 8	533 18 10	5,227 7 6
New South Wales -	4,084 14 4	464 13 7	4,549 7 11
New Zealand - -	2,668 18 9	303 11 8	2,972 10 5
Queensland - -	1,163 3 9	132 6 1	1,295 9 10
Tasmania - -	630 6 2	71 13 4	701 19 6
Western Australia -	161 16 9	18 8 1	180 4 10
Fiji - - -	73 0 0	—	73 0 0
South Australia - -	1,524 11 7	—	—
Total - -	15,000 0 0	1,524 11 7	15,000 0 0

* Distribution according to population on the basis of the census of 1881.

Audit Office, Brisbane,
12th March 1887.

W. L. G. DREW,
Auditor-General.

APPENDIX C.

The SPECIAL COMMISSIONER to the GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND.

Reporting return of Louisiade Islanders.

At anchor in the Conflict Group Lagoon,
April 21, 1887.

SIR,

YESTERDAY I completed the return of the Louisiade Islanders in accordance with the arrangement made with your Excellency's Government.

I forward herewith a statement showing the places to which they were returned and the dates on which theywere landed. There were some cases in which the information furnished from

the Polynesian department was not in every respect correct. This, however, was easily remedied, as the "boys" readily identified their own islands. The islanders move about constantly in their canoes on visits to one another, and those recruited at one island may really belong to another. I was not surprised, therefore, to find that natives entered as belonging to Pig Island really belonged to Joannet, or that Sudest natives should belong to Piron.

It may interest your Excellency to know something more of the details connected with my visit to the Louisiade Group for the purpose of taking these islanders to their homes. I attach, therefore, for your own information and for the information of your advisers, a copy of rough notes from my journal, which will supply you with some further details.

I may add that Mr. Frank Lawes, who will be stationed for some months at Samarai, has accompanied me in my cruise through the islands. He has formed the acquaintance of many of the "boys," and some of them have promised to visit him. This is far from improbable, for the natives of these islands navigate fine canoes and are fearless sailors. Many of them speak very fair "pigeon-English," and I am not without hopes that our intercourse may become much more friendly than it has been.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS.
Special Commissioner,
British New Guinea.

Notes from My Journal.

Thursday Island, April 2, 1887.

The "Wentworth" arrived yesterday, bringing the Louisiade Islanders from Townsville, in charge of Mr. Cholmondeley, on behalf of the Queensland Government. I had arranged, when in Brisbane, that these islanders should be handed over to me at Thursday Island, and that I would undertake to see that they were landed on the islands they came from. Before receiving charge of them, I considered it desirable that they should be medically inspected, and I requested the Resident, Mr. Milman, to instruct the health-officer to do so. This was carried into effect to-day, and it was ascertained that six of them had contracted venereal contagion. Under these circumstances, and being satisfied that it was out of the question to return these poor fellows in their present condition, both on their own account and on account of their relatives and friends, I arranged with Mr. Milman that they should be treated at Thursday Island, and retained there, until they were in a fit state to return. I was told that it is not usual

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

to subject returned islanders to such an examination as this. Yet it was at once evident to me what a fruitful source of misery the return of these "boys" in their present state would be, and I felt no hesitation in adopting the course I did. It will involve a considerable outlay, which ought, I think, to be borne by the Government of Queensland; but this must be a matter for correspondence. It had been arranged that we should leave this afternoon for New Guinea by the "Truganini," but unfortunately there was unanticipated delay, arising out of the intemperance of the chief officer, who was thus rendered unfit for duty. He was speedily disposed of, and a competent man was substituted for him.

Port Moresby, 6th April.—We weighed anchor from Port Kennedy at 7 a.m. on the 3rd, and arrived in Port Moresby at 7 p.m. last night, the 5th, having called at Dalrymple Island and at Yule Island. Father Navarre and Father Couppè came off to call on me at Yule Island. I did not land, as I was anxious to press on eastward, but I promised, if possible, to pay the Catholic mission a visit on my return. They were in good health and spirits. Mr. Edelfelt from Motu-Motu joined us at Yule Island. The "Truganini" quite satisfied me, making the run from Port Kennedy to Port Moresby in sixty hours, out of which we lay at anchor in Torres Straits for fully twelve hours. Yesterday morning at sunrise, when about forty miles from Yule Island, we had a most magnificent view of the coast and mountain ranges from McLatchie Point to Boera, including the summits of Mount Yule and Mount Owen Stanley. This was a sight seldom to be seen, and never in the south-east season, when the mountain tops are scarcely ever visible. Our "boys" were very cheerful, being much interested in the New Guinea coast, and especially so when, after passing Yule, we came in sight of some of the native villages.

Port Moresby, 7th April.—Since I was last here in December most of the improvements then being carried out have been completed. Granville West has assumed the appearance of a small township. Mr. Goldie's store is finished, and so are the Government buildings, including the accommodation house, the Custom-house and Post Office, which at present does duty also as a store, as well as the buildings erected for the boat men. Mr. Cholmondeley took our islanders ashore twice. Each time they had a swim, and then a good wash in the fresh water lagoon, just sufficient for the purpose.

Samarai (Dinner Island), 9th April.—We arrived here at 4 p.m. this afternoon, passing Su-a-u or South Cape, at 11.30 a.m. Heard of the terrible tragedy at Moresby Island; six Chinamen murdered and the "Pride of the Logan" destroyed. I have been supplied with all the particlars by Mr. Kissack—at least all the particulars at present known—but I can do nothing yet to ascertain further facts or to follow up the murderers. Our "boys" must be attended to first. On my return I may be able to visit the scene of this outrage. Sooner or later these Moresby Islanders must be reckoned with. No notice was taken of Fryer's murder in

Hoop-iron Bay, and this is what follows, perpetrated by the same people at no great distance from the scene of the first murder.

Mewstone, 12th April.—I spent a few hours at Dinner Island on the morning of the 10th; had early coffee with Mr. Kissack and with Captain Thompson. They have now got a very nice well-shaded cottage, and the pathway from the house to the mission premises, under an avenue of palms, is very beautiful. Their prospects of trade are very fair Twenty tons of copra arrived the day before yesterday from Milne Bay. I arranged for the planting of some india-rubber trees I had brought with me, and we walked up to the highest point on the island where it is proposed to build a house for the Resident. We weighed anchor from Samarai at 11 o'clock and reached Bentley at 4 p.m., anchoring in eight fathoms about half-a-mile from the shore. It is a very picturesque island—precipitous sandstone cliffs alternating with fine grassy slopes. I landed with Cholmondeley, Frank Lawes, and Hunter, piloted over the reef by three Bentley Islanders—"Jack," "Johnny," and "Colo." "Jack" had a shirt on, and had been to Queensland. One native came down to the boat with a cane knife in his hand, but he was ordered off by his own people, and they treated us cordially, the women at first being a little frightened. I introduced them to "Frank" (Frank Lawes) as a white man who was going to live at Dinner Island. I also told them that white men might come to live on the island, and with this prospect they seemed quite pleased, saying that they would be good to them. My visit to Bentley confirmed me in the opinion I had previously entertained that it would be a good place from which to commence a mission, as proposed by the Anglo-Australian Church. We weighed anchor from Bentley early on the 11th and reached this fine anchorage a little before 6 p.m. We passed the Conflict Group on our port bow, also sighting Deboyne, the Redrick Group, and St. Aignans to the northward. As we approached Real Island the navigation became intricate. Mewstone appears likely to be a centre of some importance. Brooker Island, of notorious repute, lies a few miles to the west and north-west, while there is a fine succession of islands known as the Calvados Chain stretching eastward. Here were introduced to me Tamaka and Coffee ("Mr. Forbes"), a friend of Forbes'. Both of them intelligent natives, speaking good pigeon-English.

Off Joannet, 12th April.—Last night, while laying at anchor at Mewstone, we sent up some rockets, to the great delight of the "boys," and to the wondering astonishment, no doubt, of the surrounding islanders. It was arranged that Tamaka (Colin Thomson's friend), "Mr. Forbes," and Molass, one of our own St. Aignans' returned natives, should go over to St. Aignans in a canoe, about 25 miles to the northward, to let the people there know that we should be coming to them in about a week, after our return from the eastward. Molass is a particularly sharp lad, and Cholmondeley considered that by sending over a friendly message and some presents by such an intelligent ambassador, the landing of the St. Aignans' boys would be much facilitated.

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They are to return to Mewstone in a few days and report to us before we go over. The reception the St. Aignans' people gave to Captain Marx of the "Swinger," and the subsequent visit of the "Diamond," renders it necessary that we should be careful how we approach them. Thus, however, we hope to pave the way for a better understanding. We weighed anchor from Mewstone at 7 a.m., passing to the northward of the Calvados Group. At the north-east extremity of Kalouma two boys were landed, the boats proceeding through a shallow passage to North West Bay on Joannet Island. The steamer had to make a circuit round the south-west point of Kalouma. At North West Bay three more boys were landed at Moses' village, Moses being an accomplice in the Craig massacre. Moses himself, naturally enough, was not there, and is not likely, I expect, to be there while any white men are in the neighbourhood. We left a message, however, to say that those who were not actually concerned in the murders need not be afraid of us, but that the remaining arms must be surrendered to us before I could allow any trading with the Joannet people. Before landing any of the boys I ascertained that they had a good many sword bayonets among them. On examination of the boxes it appeared that there were eighteen of them. These I bought from them, giving them fair value in tomahawks and tobacco.

Off Sudest (Round Island, bearing N.W. and by W. about three miles distant), 13th April.—Yesterday we sighted the "Albert," J. Robinson, master, at anchor off the N.W. point of Sudest. This morning I sent Mr. Frank Lawes on board, and he returned reporting that there were seven Europeans on board, eight Australian aboriginals, one South Sea Islander, four Malays, and two boys from South Cape, the latter being authorised from Dinner Island. Robinson had cleared from Cooktown, and his papers were in order. Robinson afterwards came on board the "Truganini" and informed me that, in accordance with Mr. Forbes' instructions, he had done no trade with the neighbouring islanders. He was rather reticent about the amount of shell he had got, saying that, lately, he had not done much on account of the weather being unfavourable. The natives, he said, never came near him, except on Sundays, when his men knocked off work. Mr. Cholmondeley landed four boys this afternoon on the northern side of Joannet. The boats returned at 2 p.m. We then bore up for Round Island, and anchored on the north shore of Sudest about half a mile from the mouth of a river or creek. Here we landed three boys

Same anchorage, 14th April.— Cholmondeley, Lawes, and Hunter started early this morning with twelve "boys" for Piron, an island lying N.N.E., about six miles off, reefs intervening. The whale boats were as full as they could hold, and they had a long pull of it, at least 25 miles, for they had to go right round the island. The "boys" seemed glad to get back, and there was some rejoicing among their friends, which is rather an unusual thing. As a rule they are extremely stoical in their reception of

their long lost brothers. In the afternoon I landed on Sudest, accompanied by Captain Runcie, Captain Thomson, and Mr. Powell, our engineer. We had a most delightful ramble over the grassy hills, following the native footpaths. Our chief object was to get a good view of the reefs to the eastward. This we did, but the outlook was not encouraging. No passage could be traced from our present anchorage eastward to Rossel. We saw some natives, but none of them came near us. Looking down from the tops of these grassy hills the scene was very lovely, and it was good walking, not a stick nor a stone to stumble over, and beautiful pasture, so different from the rank grass of South Cape or Zareba.

Same anchorage, off Sudest, 15th April.—Cholmondeley started with another *posse* of boys—eight of them this time—eastward along the coast. As soon as they had started I left with Captain Runcie, Captain Thomson, and Mr. Powell to explore the river or creek. Yesterday, I should have mentioned that we watered the vessel at a stream near the place where we landed, a little to the eastward of the creek. Of course there was a bar to our river. We found a channel with about three feet at low water, and then plenty of deep water inside. After pulling about a mile the water became quite fresh, and a little further on we came to a right and left-hand branch. Following up the right-hand branch, we came to an open cultivated patch with frightened natives in the distance. They soon, however, became more reassured, and as we landed they greeted us in friendly fashion. We gave them the accustomed peace-offering, and inquired for the "boys" who had been landed on the previous day. Then we took to the boat again, and went on about half a mile further. Beautiful little trickling rivulets from the rocks above fed the main stream. There was a wilderness of ferns and orchids on either side, and here and there the vestige of what had apparently been a habitation; but there was not much to encourage further research in that direction, so we turned back. On our return to the village we found that they had sent for our "boys," and "Jimmy" grinned at us a homely recognition. He was quite pleased to do the honours, and introduced us to his sister and his uncle—his sister, not an uncomely girl, his uncle old, and ugly, and scaly.

Then, under "Jimmy's" guidance, we went up the left-hand branch of the stream, but here also our further progress was quickly interrupted, for before long we heard the grateful sound of falling waters, and soon we came in sight of a fine cascade dashing down over a succession of rocky bars. Here, then, was the head of navigation, so, leaving the boat in the charge of two men, we took to the hillside through the ferns and creepers soon to emerge on a grassy slope and a beaten pathway. This we followed for about a mile to the hill tops, whence from an elevation of about 300 feet we overlooked the valleys beneath us. Never, I think, have I witnessed a more beautiful combination of forest and grassy uplands, than I did from these heights. Over hill and dale, as far as the eye could see eastward, up to the summits of

British New Guinea.

Mount Rattlesnake, there was the most pleasing intermingling of open and wooded country. Here and there great masses of timber clothed a hillside, and then abruptly broke off and gave place to a series of mamelon-shaped heights covered with rich pasture, soft in texture, and vivid in colouring. Looking westward and northward, in the immediate foreground, there was the same contrast of light and dark green with an intensely blue sea beyond and islands in the distance. Here was a veritable Garden of Eden. "Jimmy" objected to take us to any of the villages, but I doubt very much whether there are many of them. "The people would be frightened," he said; so we did not press it, and contented ourselves with a good look round through our glasses from this mount of vision, sending our "boys" for a supply of cocoanuts from a neighbouring grove. Mr. Powell, meanwhile, lost no time in contemplation. He promptly attacked, with a crowbar, a quartz reef which he had found, and in half an hour he had a bag full of specimens which may yet tell a tale. We all thought, at any rate, that it looked very likely stuff for crushing. The geological combinations of primitive rock with clay slate and quartz seemed to justify the expectation of mineral deposits. We returned in the afternoon to the waterfall where we had left the boat, and were kindly supplied by the natives with a bowl full of cooked taro and boiled bananas. We gave them a tomahawk, some pumpkin seeds, and, of course, some sticks of tobacco. Our day on Sudest has been a most enjoyable one, and we have certainly come to the conclusion that it is a very beautiful and a most interesting island. I named the creek we explored the Runcie (after our skipper), and the waterfalls were christened the Cholmondeley Cascades. There is a pleasing feature in the landscape of Sudest which I must not omit to mention. On the apex of the grassy mamelon-shaped hills I have spoken of, the natives have planted single trees. These are generally she-oaks, or a tree so similar to it that I could not detect any difference, though Mr. Hunter assured me that they were not exactly similar to the Australian she-oak. If their object is to provide trees under whose shade they can sit and look out upon the sea they might certainly have found some more umbrageous specimens; but they are very shapely, and seem to do well in spite of the exposed positions they occupy. They did not seem to be in the least bent or disturbed by the wind.

16*th April*.—Four more boys landed about 16 miles to the eastward. Boats returned about 3 o'clock. They had a good slant of wind along shore. Cheup, one of the boys returned on this occasion, turned out to be a prince in disguise restored to his possessions after three years' captivity. The people were delighted to see him, kissed him, stroked him, and cried over him. He was undoubtedly a man of property, owning houses and plantations. He was one of the cleanest and smartest lads of the whole lot, and when he was dressed for the occasion, in a clean white suit, with a feather in his cap and an umbrella in his hand, it was evident that Cheup was quite a superior person. When an inquiry was made whether any pigs could be bought at Cheup's village it was

intimated that they would all be required to celebrate the young chieftain's return. Cheup promised to pay a visit some day to "Frank" at Samarai. It is not impossible that he may. These people have fine canoes, and navigate them fearlessly.

Rossel Island, 18*th April*.—Weighed anchor yesterday morning at 8 a.m. from Sudest; felt our way cautiously to Bramble Pass. Found it to be a good passage through the reef, easily to be recognised in accordance with the sailing directions; steamed about twenty miles across clear water to an opening in Rossel Reef; thence, with a bad light and a good many patches, through the lagoon to an anchorage in four fathoms in Cannibal Bay, as we named it, a little to the westward of the "Swinger's" anchorage, as marked in the chart. Rossel presented to me a sombre, gloomy, and uninviting aspect from the side on which we approached it. The hill sides are very steep and covered with dense vegetation; profound silence reigned around, broken only by the occasional scream of a cockatoo frightened by the movement of the natives, whom we did not see, though they, no doubt, saw us. The first glimpse of human life which we caught was that of two natives emerging from a hole in a rock off a point immediately abutting on [our] own anchorage. Rossel is not an inviting solitude. This morning we became a little better acquainted with its inhabitants. A canoe came alongside of us with five natives. Before breakfast, Cholmondeley took two of our boys in the whale-boat to land them at their native cocoanut grove about a mile from our anchorage. A dozen truculent and hungry-looking dogs came down to meet them, but our poor "boys" were frightened out of their seven senses, for they were informed, it seems, with great candour, that their own relatives—six in number—had been killed and eaten. The gentlemen who had cleverly accomplished this gastronomic triumph were very anxious that our "boys" should land, but they did not seem to see it, and Cholmondeley very properly brought them back to the vessel. We took them on to High Island, where the rest of our Rossel contingent were landed at their native *habitat*, and they seemed to be satisfied that here they would be sufficiently strong to hold their own. I confess I felt some compunction in landing them at all, for I feared that they and their boxes might become the prey of some of the revolting-looking Anthropophagi who floated around us in their canoes this morning. I was glad, at 11 a.m. this morning, to know that we were leaving behind us the atmosphere of this most unalluring fastness of the giant Despair—the *Ultima Thule* of the Louisiade Archipelago. We are once more steaming westward.

Mewstone, 19*th April*.—Anchored at 4 p.m., having steamed from Bramble Pass along the southern side of Joannet and the Calvados Group. Nicholas Minister at anchor here in the "Lizzie." The time for his permit having expired I have declined to renew it, and have instructed him to go into Dinner Island, and to clear thence from the boundaries of the Protectorate. Just before sunset I landed on an island opposite to Mewstone, in order to see a Torres

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Straits native woman, who was anxious to get back to Marbiag or Jervis Island. On my way east I had intimated that I was anxious to see the three women at Brooker Island who were the survivors of those who had been taken from Torres Straits by Redlick and Johnny McOrt in 1878. The men belonging to them had been killed when McOrt was killed by the Brooker Islanders. I told this woman that if they liked to come back to Torres Straits I would take them with me in the "Truganini." She seemed anxious to go, but did not like to go without the others; would go over that night to Brooker Island, and if the others agreed to go they would all be ready in the morning.

At Sea, off St. Aignans, 20th April.—There was quite a crowd of canoes round us this morning, the Brooker Island captives among them—three women and three children. They were very glad to get away and to return home, so they came on board and we made the best arrangements we could for them, Captain Rumcie providing for them in the after part of the vessel. Poor creatures! I suspect they have had hard times of it; at any rate, they hope for better times now. We stood over to St. Aignans through a passage in the reef, guided by our experienced pilot, Captain Thomson, and reached the south-eastern extremity about 1 o'clock p.m. Molass and Tamaka had gone over, prepared the way for us by telling the people that the "boys" were coming over, and had returned to Mewstone to meet us on our way back from Sudest. The plan answered admirably. The people were prepared for our coming, they received us in a friendly way, and the landing was accomplished with great promptitude and celerity. The "Truganini" steamed close up to a point at the south-eastern extremity of the island, where the line of deep waters is broken by a coral reef jutting out towards two small islands, which may be regarded as Cape Henry of the chart. Between the point I speak of (which I named Truganini Point) and the reef there was a deep though narrow passage, with a small harbour inside. Into this inlet the boats passed and landed their passengers. There were about 100 natives at the village, and among them one at least spoke English. We were all sorry to lose Molass. My parting gift to him was an iron pot and some pumpkin seeds. I made it a special condition that he was to retain his right to the iron pot; they are such fellows for giving away everything that they have. In a single day, or in a few hours, they will divest themselves of all their treasures collected together as the result of three years' work. St. Aignans is a very fine island, and I should have liked to have seen more of it. It is evidently thickly inhabited, and there were many cocoanut groves.

In the afternoon we stood over to Renard, and here we landed the two last of our "boys." One of them was a very nice jolly fellow, Paiti by name. I don't think he half liked leaving us—at any rate, the tears were in his eyes when he left the ship. Renard is a nice little island, about midway between St Aignans,

and the Calvados Group. We could not find anchorage off it, so we had to lay-to for the night in the deep water off St. Aignans.

Conflict Group Lagoon, 21st April.—Difficult navigation this morning in threading our way among the reefs between Brooker Island and the Redlick Group. Light on the water very bad; anchored in the Conflict Group Lagoon at 3 p.m. Landed on two of the islands and arrived at the conclusion that they would be very suitable for cocoanut planting, though they are rather small. There is a good deal of small timber on them and some fine grevillias. Fine anchorage.

Mudge Bay, Basilaki, 22nd April.—We looked into most of the bays on the east and north sides of Basilaki, saw a good many villages and some canoes, but the natives would not come near us, and indeed avoided us carefully, conscience-stricken. We anchored in Mudge Bay but saw no trace of the wreck of the "Pride of the Logan." Probably it has been completely cut up. The natives cleared out at once and took to the hills. The sole occupants of the two villages were a few disconsolate dogs and some fowls. As evening closed in the dogs howled piteously.

Samarai, 23rd April.—We got under weigh from Mudge Bay at sunrise and shaped a course for Lydia Island—navigation very ticklish. Landed our old friend Diavari (Miller's murderer) at a small island not far from Lydia, among his own friends. At first they did not recognise him, and no wonder, for "Johnny," as they called him at Port Moresby, looked quite a swell in his clean shirt and drill trousers. But it was not long before it dawned upon them that it was, in truth, their long-lost friend, risen as it were from the dead, and then there was great rejoicing and nose rubbing. The village was a very pretty one, clean and tidy, on a sandy spit running out from a cocoanut grove. Then, after a little speech from me inculcating good-will to the white man and illustrating our precepts by example, we left our reformed villain with injunctions to him to visit "Frank" at Samarai. This he will probably do when he has finished his tobacco. The return of Diavari is likely, I trust, to have an excellent effect on the natives of Normanby, who are a very impracticable lot. Leaving Lydia at mid-day, we again had some very difficult reef-threading until we got into open water and anchored here about 4 o'clock.

The shelling fleet from Thursday Island are at anchor round us—two schooners and six luggers, so the roadstead looks quite lively. They have found good shell in China Straits, but, not content with this, they are off to Coral Haven in the Louisiade.

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APPENDIX D.

REPORT from Mr. Deputy Commissioner MILMAN.

Government Residency, Thursday Island,
November 16, 1887.

SIR,

IN drawing up a report for your Excellency's information on the portion of British New Guinea that has been under my supervision, I regret that my opportunities have not enabled me to visit more than a few localities in that extensive district; therefore, as both the customs and manners, besides the physique, of the natives vary so much, my observations must not be taken to apply in too general a manner, otherwise, when further exploration is followed up, they may be found to be incorrect and misleading.

From Talbot Island to the entrance of the Fly River between Bampton and Kiwai Islands, the whole coast line is difficult of approach, being not only comparatively unsurveyed, but for many miles out to sea the waters contain numerous detached reefs which, owing to the discolouration of the sea wherein they lie, are impossible to be seen and render navigation for exploring purposes most dangerous. (This discolouration is doubtless caused by the vast bodies of fresh water that empty into the sea from the Fly, Tait, Katoer, Mai-Kassa and others rivers.) Shoal water extends also for some considerable distance from the mainland, the coast line of which, with but one or two exceptions, is uniformly low.

The delta of the Aird River (the eastern boundary of my district) was, until Mr. Bevan's exploring expedition at the early part of this year, practically unknown. The discoveries of that gentleman point to a practical highway for many miles towards the interior of the continent by more than one large river, but from what I have seen during my late visit to Deception Bay, I am of opinion that during the south-east season considerable difficulty will be met with in finding a safe passage through the heavy rollers that break during that season some five to eight miles off the mouths of the Aird: still, possibly a safe entrance may be found by approaching the bay from the southward and eastward, keeping close off the mouths of the Jubilee River from Bald Head. The natives near the mouth of the Aird River assumed a hostile appearance at the approach of Mr. Bevan's party, at a similar place to where the boats of the "Bramble" were attacked in 1845, but after passing these tribes friendly relations were established with the more inland people. Similar friendly intercourse was had with the natives at the mouth of the Jubilee River on my late visit in the "Albatross," considerable numbers coming about the ship and trading was carried on. Among other articles of food brought off, a dead dog was offered me as a valuable present. As Mr. Bevan has started with another expedition and intends exploring, not only the Jubilee and Aird Rivers, but also the comparatively unknown delta of the Fly River, it is to be

presumed that much greater knowledge of the features of that part of the country will soon be available.

Travelling to the westward, the extensive delta (above mentioned) appertaining to the Fly River is met with, and at present is but poorly defined on the chart; only one entrance, that between Bampton and Kiwai Islands, having been penetrated or surveyed. I am inclined to think, however, that a better entrance may be found to the eastward of Kiwai Island, but this is only conjecture on my part. The Fly River, as far as I have been up it, is thickly populated by a purely agricultural and hunting people, living in large communities, while some of the houses in the villages are over two hundred yards in length. (I was in one myself that measured two hundred and thirty-seven paces!) At Bampton Island the natives are peaceable and quiet, but not as fine a race as those living on the opposite Island of Kiwai, at the chief village of which island (bearing the same name, Kiwai) are two large villages separated only by a creek, and it is here that a boat's crew were massacred some six or seven years ago. These people, or rather the natives of the more northern village of the two, are still not to be trusted, and I have heard rumours of their intention to attack some cedar-getters who had a station on Darru Island, some few miles to the westward; but as nothing has come of it, possibly the knowledge that any unprovoked attack would be punished in a similar way to the previous massacre, has had a deterrent and beneficial effect.

On the right bank of the river, immediately above Bampton Island, there are three populous villages, Wigi and two others. These villages have been visited by cedar-getters (who have been the real pioneers of this part of New Guinea) and the inhabitants found to be friendly. A timely present made to the natives of Wigi for befriending the shipwrecked crew of the "Manu-Manu" (a cutter wrecked by a tidal wave farther up the river) has had a good effect. On the opposite side of the river an important and influential chief named Karossa lives at Soomaioot, a large village situated on Kiwai Island, some twenty miles above the villages of Kiwai. Here the natives are very friendly and deserve encouragement.

They own large cocoanut plantations on Mibu Island, situated in the middle of this huge river, but owing to the insalubrity of the climate of this island, even the natives are unable to live on it. Following up the river, traces of careful cultivation are seen here and there on the banks, the gardens or plantations being kept free from weeds and planted with crotons and other bright-leaved shrubs between the bananas or other fruit trees, besides being systematically irrigated by dykes cut at regular intervals, which, filling at high water (the river being perfectly fresh even close to its mouth), remain full as the water recedes.

About sixty or seventy miles above Soomaioot, but on the opposite side, another large community is met with at a village called Abru under a friendly chief named Papiua. Several large creeks or rivers join the main river below this village, but whether

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they are flowing into the river or waters forming other mouths of this vast system remains to be proved. It was near this village of Abru that the "Manu-Manu" cutter (previously mentioned) was totally lost in September of last year and two of her crew drowned by a tidal wave that sweeps at the commencement of every flood tide, surging along the right bank, carrying away tons of soil and undermining large trees on the edge in its course. As the chief Papiua had helped one of the survivors of the wrecked vessel to escape down the river, I was, as your Excellency is aware, empowered to proceed to the place shortly after with presents in return for this friendly act. Caution has to be displayed, however, in any intercourse with these people, as their cupidity is easily excited, and probably it will be some time before it will be safe for traders to visit their villages without exercising great care and judgment. Some few miles below Abru, a curious stockaded village is seen quite on the river bank. It is difficult, however, to surmise what the defensive erection (which is about forty feet high) is for, as the dwellings of the natives are built up against the high walls on the outside, so that any attacking force could easily set fire to the buildings and burn down the whole place.

On my landing here all the women and children, who had lined the shore previously, disappeared into the bush, which is always a sign that caution should be observed in any further approaches or dealings with the people. They (the natives), like the inhabitants of Abru, are not a large race, but appear a stalwart people, and are entirely free from any traces of skin or other diseases.

The noise of the steamer's whistle had a most alarming effect on several hundred natives who had collected round her in their canoes, every man, without one exception, immediately on hearing the strange sound jumping into the water, and, making for the nearest shore, disappeared into the bush. Strange to say, that at the mouth of the Jubilee River I entered with the "Albatross," though it was probable that no steamer had ever been there before; a similar experiment had not the same result, so that, as a defensive weapon, the steamer's whistle cannot always be depended on.

The shores of the Fly River up as far as I went are uniformly low, but owing to its great width, I should be inclined, to think were not subject to inundation.

Small vessels navigating the Fly should keep to the left or northern and eastern bank, by that means avoiding the tidal bore; at any rate until Walker Island is reached, to which point the islands which lie in the centre of the lower reaches extend. As neither Signor D'Albertis, Mr. Macfarlane, nor Mr. Everill mention this tidal wave, they must have kept near the left bank, on which side apparently it does not occur. Where the waters are pent up by the islands coming close in to the opposite shore, a *cul de sac* is formed, most dangerous to approach at its upper end, owing to the irresistible force the young flood comes up over the shallows in the vicinity. I myself noticed the tide rise five feet in less than [?] minutes!

Open stretches of country were seen at intervals along the banks, and immense number of sago palms noticed on any clear or fairly open country, while dense jungle lines the river in the intervening spaces about the lands adjacent to the western side of the river. At its mouth, a considerable amount of cedar has been obtained by Messrs. Tait and Williams, also up the Katow River, by other equally enterprising pioneers. Their labours, however, not having resulted favourably for themselves, from a financial point of view, the pursuit has been given up for the present, but the kind and judicious treatment these men displayed during their intercourse with the natives of these parts has done much to assist and aid future explorations.

The large Island of Bristowe lies some ten miles to the westward of Bampton, and is itself low and mostly covered with dense mangroves; between it and the mainland the fertile Island of Darru is situated, only about a mile off the mainland and immediately opposite the mouth of the Tait River. The soil of this island is of extraordinary richness, and should grow anything. Messrs. Tait and Williams had their station here, and commenced a good garden, but have abandoned it.

The Tait River carries good water for some considerable distance, and is navigable for vessels drawing 10 or 12 feet for quite 40 miles.

Rich banks are seen on both sides, and a good deal of fine timber; the natives are a small and inferior race, and do not appear to be numerous.

To the westward of the Tait some 20 to 25 miles the Katow River enters the sea. At its mouth two large communities have settled in two villages situated close together and called Mowalta.

Considerable intercourse has been had with these natives for some years by the crews of the numerous boats employed in the pearl-shelling and bêche-de-mer industries coming in for shelter or for water, the village being conveniently situated near the fishing grounds on and off the Great Warrior Reef. These people are a quiet, tractable race, and many of them have been employed at times in the fishing boats. Here I found a curious custom that I have not noticed elsewhere in New Guinea; when any epidemic breaks out among them, the sick people are sent out of the village to some temporary huts that have been erected about a mile to leeward, and there remain in a *quasi* quarantine until they either recover or succumb to their diseases. Much sickness prevails at times, and considerable mortality ensues both here and at other places on the coast and on the neighbouring islands, but I could not ascertain with any degree of certainty what the epidemic was that I met with on several occasions, or what caused it; the symptoms point to a high state of fever, tetanus setting in in many instances, and death ensuing in some cases within 24 to 48 hours.

Skin disease, similar to the disease at the east end of New Guinea, is here met with, but is not universal. The sufferers from it say that it only appears at certain times of the year

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(probably when some particular food or fruit is ripe) and disappears again for a time.

The women, as elsewhere, do most of the plantation work, being guarded when at work or on their way to and from their gardens by their husband, brother, or father, armed with a long bow and a belt full of arrows, the men never going about unarmed or allowing their women to leave the village without an escort, fearing an attack from some bush tribe, though the two interesting exploring trips, lately undertaken by Captain Cole to a distance of about thirty miles inland, would lead one to suppose that the inland and the coast tribes were on good terms with each other, mixing, as he and his escort of coast natives did, in a most friendly way with the inhabitants of many of the inland villages. Some of the women at Mowalta are tall and well made, and appear capable of carrying heavy loads, practised as they are in bringing in large quantities of food daily from their gardens. The country at the back seems, by Captain Cole's account, to be of a very rich nature, being open and of some slight altitude, and the timber very fine, but owing to some deep and large swamps no easy mode of access has yet been found.

The Katow River is only navigable for about 10 miles, but no attempt as yet has been made to penetrate to its sources.

Between the Katow River and the large island of Saibai, the only elevation that is visible far seaward along the coast, either east or west, is seen, and is called Mount Mabudanin.

Saibai Island, though within the boundaries of Queensland, I consider a part of the New Guinea system, being only separated from the main land by a channel about two miles wide. The inhabitants of this island are a lazy lot, whom it is almost impossible to get to work, even for their own benefit. They are much under the control of the South Sea Island Mission Teacher, whom I am inclined to think encourages them in their disinclination to work for others. Captain Cole, who had formed a bêche-de-mer station here, has had to abandon it, as he found it was impossible to get any work out of these people at any price.

Your Excellency asks for any information I can give you in regard to the periodical attacks made on the inhabitants in this locality by a marauding tribe that come from the westward. I regret that my numerous inquiries have enabled me to find out but little of these piratical warriors.

The exact locality they come from is still a mystery, the inhabitants of Saibai having no knowledge of them or their language, the latter being entirely distinct and many of their customs different. They had probably never seen a white man, until the Rev. E. B. Savage, who (happening to be at Saibai when their fires were seen on the mainland) fearlessly visited their camp and tried to hold some intercourse with them. They were very shy at first, but ultimately to the number of some hundreds flocked round him and did not attempt to molest him. He describes them as a much lighter race than the rest of the New Guinea natives, and as having long, straight hair, while some of them

have their nasal bone pierced in three places, into which are introduced pieces of bone or shell. They appeared entirely unacquainted with firearms.

I should much like to follow these people to their haunts, but the waters along the coast to the westward of Saibai being so shoal and so full of sunken and hidden dangers, I have not ventured to take the "Albatross" after them, she drawing too much water to make the attempt at all prudent.

In conclusion, I would point out to your Excellency the grand field open for exploration inland on either side of the great Fly River, and I have not the least doubt that immense tracts of land of great value for agricultural and pastoral purposes, and magnificent timber, will be discovered, with a noble waterway to the very door.

I have, &c.
HUGH MILMAN,
Deputy Commissioner for the Western
Portion of British New Guinea.

His Excellency the Special Commissioner,
British New Guinea, Granville.

APPENDIX E.

FRENCH MISSION AT YULE ISLAND.

Society of the Missionaries
of the Sacred Heart, Vicariate Apostolic of
Melanesia and Micronesia, New Guinea.

EXCELLENCE, Yule Island, le 5 Mai, 1887.

PERMETTEZ-MOI de vous écrire cette lettre en ma propre langue, car j'écris si mal l'anglais que je craindrais de ne pas exprimer ma pensée avec toute la clarté désirable, et je sais d'ailleurs que votre Excellence lit de français aussi bien que sa langue maternelle.

I. J'ai lu avec beaucoup d'intérêt votre rapport sur la Nouvelle Guinée pour l'année 1886, lequel vous avez eu la bonté de me communiquer. J'ai vu avec grand plaisir les travaux qui ont déjà été accomplis par votre initiative et l'ordre établi pour faire prospérer cette nouvelle colonie anglaise.

Je suis heureux de voir que le gouvernement de sa Majesté et vos propres sentiments ont pour but, en établissant le Protectorat sur la Nouvelle Guinée, de porter la paix chez ces peuples sauvages; de les protéger les uns contre les autres; de mettre une trève à leurs guerres presqu'incessantes, de les relever de leur abaissement moral, par l'instruction religieuse qui les rappelle à la sublime destinée pour laquelle Dieu les a mis sur la terre; de les civiliser par l'habitude du travail, si utile au developpement de

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leurs forces, à l'entretien de leur santé et à une augmentation de bien-être; enfin de polir leurs rapports entr'eux et avec les blancs qui ne tarderont pas à entrer en contact avec eux. Dans cette voie, Excellence, vous nous trouverez toujours combattant à vos côtés, secondant vos généreux efforts, de tous les nôtres.

J'ai lu aussi la lettre que vous avez eu la bonté d'écrire à M. Lawes pour l'engager à retirer son teacher de Yule Island (Roro). Je vous remercie pour cette marque d'intérêt pour la paix. J'ai pris aussi connaissance de la réponse qu'y fit M. Lawes mais sa lettre contient beaucoup d'inexactitudes qui tendent à induire votre Excellence en erreur sur la droiture de nos intentions. Je crois devoir rétablir la vérité des faits après que je vous aurai donné un court aperçu de notre but, de nos dispositions et de nos moyens d'action.

II. Notre but, vous le connaissez, c'est la conversion et la civilization des sauvages. L'une regarde leur destinée eternelle; l'autre leur doit procurer les biens de cette vie. La conversion telle que nous l'entendons, est un changement dans les mœurs, de sorte que celui qui vivait auparavant sans loi, sans frein, et au gré de ses caprices suive désormais une loi qui règle et dirige les actions de sa vie. C'est aussi un changement opéré dans les intentions, de sorte que, celui qui bornait ses désirs aux biens de la terre, aspire désormais et travaille à obtenir les biens éternels qui seront la récompense de la fidélité à l'accomplissement des volontés de Dieu pendant cette vie-ce qui commence à l'élever au-dessus de la brute et lui fait supporter avec patience les miséres de cette vie.

2. La civilisation consiste dans l'education sociale et professionnelle. L'éducation sociale doit régler les rapports des hommes entr'eux sur ces principes de la charité chrétienne: "Ne faites pas aux autres ce que vous ne voudriez qu'on vous fît," et cette autre maxime qui en est le complément, "faites aux autres ce que vous voudriez que les autres vous fassent."

L'education professionnelle consiste à donner aux sauvages, qui sont généralement indolents et paresseux, l'habitude d'un travail proportionné à leurs forces et aux exigences du climat, travail d'industrie, d'agriculture surtout si favorable à l'esprit de famille, aux bonnes mœurs, à la santé même; et qui leur apporterait une somme de bien-être qui leur est inconnu jusqu'à présent; je dirai même travail nécessaire à la prospérité de cette colonie. Car sous le climat de la Nouvelle Guinée il est bien difficile à la race blanche de travailler en plein soleil, soit pour la culture de la terre, soit pour l'exploitation des bois, et mêmes pour l'exploitation des mines qu'on pourrait trouver dans l'avenir.

Le "native" habitué au travail sera l'auxiliaire nécessaire du blanc et celui-ci lui apportera les bienfaits de notre civilisation. C'est pourquoi les premiers blancs qui viendront s'établir parmi nos indigénes de Nouvelle Guinée devraient se conduire de telle sorte qu'ils n'apportent que de bons exemples et non les vices de

notre société. C'est du moins ce que nous nous efforcerons de faite et d'enseigner de notre côté.

3. Nous ne nous dissimulons pas les difficultés d'une pareille entreprise; aussi nous sentons que, sans le secours de Dieu, nous succomberions sous ce pesant fardeau. Mais c'est pour sa seule gloire que nous travaillons, nous sommes en droit d'en attendre quelque secours. Continuateurs de l'œuvre du Divin Maître qui est venu sur la terre pour nous relever, nous aussi, nous éclairer et nous apporter l'espérance d'une vie meilleure, nous essayons de rendre ce que nous avous reçu.

De même qu'autrefois les Augustin, les Patrick, les Denys, etc., ont été envoyés pour convertir nos pères que le monde civilisé d'alors appelait barbares, et dont les mœurs, en effet, différaient peu de celles de nos sauvages de la Nouvelle Guinée, nous sommes aussi envoyés pour porter cette même lumière de l'Evangile dans ces pays lointains.

Le Pape Grégoire ne crut pas qu'il fût indigne de la religion du Christ d'envoyer à nos pères les sujets qu'il avait de plus remarquables en science, en vertu, et en sainteté. Et en effet il tint une conduite très-sage car s'il n'eut envoyé que des hommes ignorants et d'une vie peu exemplaire, il y a toute apparence que nos pères fussent restés dans leur barbarie, et que l'Europe au lieu d'être la contrée la plus civilisée, celle qui éclaire le reste du monde, ressemblerait encore à ces peuples où la lumière de l'Evangile n'est pas encore pénétrée, ou qui l'ont repoussée.

Aujourd'hui encore l'Eglise Romaine n'envoie dans les pays sauvages et barbares que des prêtres éprouvés. Si elle ne trouve pas toujours des hommes de la force d'âme et de la sainteté des Augustin et des Patrick, cependant elle exige de ceux qu'elle envoie, des conditions qu'elle n'exige pas de ceux qui demeurent dans les pays civilisés. Car outre la science qui est toujours la même pour tous les prêtres, elle demande à ceux qu'elle destine à l'évangélisation des sauvages, une abnégation complète de leurs commodités quels que soient les hauts emplois qu'ils ont occupés ou qu'ils sont aptes à occuper en Europe. Ils doivent être prêts à supporter le froid, la chaleur excessive, les fatigues de toutes sortes, la faim, la soif, la maladie, la mort même pour gagner des âmes à Jésus Christ. Ils doivent travailler de leurs mains, s'il est nécessaire pour vivre et aussi pour faire subsister la mission. Les missionnaires doivent aussi adopter les sauvages pour leur famille et ne jamais penser à retourner dans leur patrie maternelle.

4. Les missionnaires doivent accomplir cette grande œuvre de la conversion et de la civilisation des sauvages, à leurs propres dépens. Le Pape qui les envoie n'a pas les moyens d'en soutenir les frais. Quand les missionnaires ont des biens de famille, ils les emploient ordinairement pour supporter la mission; s'ils n'en ont pas, ils doivent vivre des aumônes de la Propagation de la Foi et d'autres aumônes, et c'est le cas pour l'immense majorité des missions. Mais ces aumônes sont presque toujours

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insuffisantes dans les débuts. Par exemple: Dans l'année dernière, 1886, nous avons reçu environ 1,300*l.*, et nous avons dépensé seulement en voyages pour faire venir nos sujets d'Europe, ou de Sydney à Thursday ou à Yule Island pour les allées et venues de Thursday Island à Yule Island environ 800*l.* De sorte que nous n'avons eu que 500*l.* pour payer la nourriture et l'entretien de vingt-cinq personnes tant en Nouvelle Guinée qu'en Nouvelle Bretagne où nous avons aussi une mission. Aussi nous sentons le besoin de nous créer des ressources par le moyen de l'agriculture, l'élevage ou autrement. Et ceci ne peut se faire que très-lentement à cause du manque même de ressources. Sous le rapport de l'agriculture Yule Island nous offre bien des avantages.

5. Notre genre de vie pourrait sembler incroyable à ceux qui ne sont pas acquaintés avec la vie du missionnaire surtout dans les commencements. Telle fut cependant la vie des hommes qui ont éclairé nos contrées. Ils vivaient d'aumônes, couchaient sur la dure, et ne savaient pas toujours la veille où ils trouveraient la nourriture du lendemain, et c'était la moindre de leurs inquiétudes. Ils comptaient sur celui qui nourrit les petits des oiseaux et savaient qu'il ne laisserait pas sans secours ses fidèles serviteurs. Ils manquaient quelquefois de tout; mais leurs souffrances et leurs privations attiraient les bénédictions de Dieu sur leurs œuvres.

Essayant nous-mêmes de marcher sur leurs traces, nous ne nous troublons pas beaucoup de la disette dans laquelle nous pouvons nous trouver momentanément, étant soutenus par les mêmes espérances.

III. En conséquence de nos faibles ressources, nous devons disposer notre plan d'évangélisation de manière à ce que l'execution entraîne le moins dépenses possibles. Rome, ou la Sacrée Congrégation de la Propagande, nous avait désigné Port Moresby comme point pour notre premier établissement en Nouvelle Guinée, et Thursday Island comme sanatorium. L'ordre d'aller à Port Moresby n'était pas absolu; c'était seulement une direction à laquelle nous déférons toujours volontiers à moins de circonstances imprévues. Port Moresby était le lieu le plus connu, il y avait un service de bateau par Thursday Island, et la prévision du Protectorat de l'Angleterre sur la Nouvelle Guinée faisait espérer de fréquentes communications; avantages dont nous désirions profiter.

C'est pourquoi quand en Septembre, 1885, le Général Scratchley me proposait d'abandonner Yule Island pour nous envoyer sur la côte nord-est de la Nouvelle Guinée ou dans l'archipel de la Louisiade, il me fut impossible d'accéder à ses désirs; parce que cette combinaison nous éloignait trop de notre sanatorium, nous entraînait en de grandes dépenses pour voyager et nous privait des avantages des communications qui étaient sur le point de s'établir entre Thursday Island et la côte sud de la Nouvelle Guinée. Puis j'avais bien des raisons de penser que le Général cédait, dans cette voie, à une pression des messieurs de la Société

de Londres, lesquels manifestaient assez dans leurs écrits, leur désir de nous fermer l'entrée de la côte sud de la Nouvelle Guinée.

IV. Maintenant permettez-moi, Excellence, de faire quelques reflexions sur les inexactitudes peu bienveillantes dont fourmille la lettre de M. Lawes en date 6 Août, 1886, et contenue dans votre rapport. M. Lawes dit:—"The Father (Verjees) replied "that their orders from Rome to occupy Yule Island were "definite and explicit." Dans une autre lettre qu'il à écrite au Père Verjees en retirant son teacher de Roro (Yule Island) il dit aussi:—"Mr. McFarlane writes me that, in the conversation "he had with Father Navarre at Thursday Island, he strongly "urged him to take up new ground, and not to go to. Yule "Island, where a Protestant mission was established."

Ces deux citations sont entièrement inexactes. La première, d'abord, qui est tirée d'une conversation qu'eut M. Lawes avec le Père Verjees. La mémoire de M. Lawes lui a sans doute fait défaut, car l'ordre de Rome nous envoyait à Port Moresby et non à Yule Island. Et c'est moi qui ai donné au Père Verjees l'ordre d'aller à Yule Island, et je vais vous dire dans quelles circonstances j'ai cru devoir déroger à la direction que nous avions reçue de Rome.

Nous étions établis à Thursday Island depuis seulement quelques mois, attendant une occasion favorable pour nous rendre à Port Moresby; car le service de l' "Elsea" était suspendu depuis la proclamation du Protectorat. J'eus l'occasion de rencontrer M. McFarlane chez M. Chester, alors Police Magistrate de Thursday Island. L'entrevue eut lieu devant Mme. Chester: j'espère que M. Lawes ne récusera pas le témoignage de cette honorable dame. Je dis tout d'abord à M. McFarlane que notre intention était d'aller à Port Moresby dans le plus bref délai. Il me répondit, ce que nous savions déjà de plusieurs personnes, que notre présence à Port Moresby ferait une très-grande peine à ses collègues, et me pria de choisir un autre point. Il me désigna même dans Fairfax Harbour un point où nous serions bien. Sans me déterminer pour le point indiqué, je promis à M. McFarlane qu'en raison des désagrements que notre établissement à Port Moresby causerait à ses collègues, nous différerions d'y aller si nous trouvions sur la côte un autre endroit propre à notre premier établissement.

Ce n'est que plus tard que nous avons pris des renseignements auprès des hommes qui connaissaient la côte sud de la Nouvelle Guinée que nos regards s'arrêtèrent sur Yule Island, et que j'y envoyai le Père Verjees.

Dans la même conversation je fis observer à M. McFarlane qu'en passant à Cooktown et ensuite à Thursday Island, beaucoup de personnes, venant de Port Moresby et d'autres points de la côte, nous avertirent que les messieurs de la Société de Londres résidant en Nouvelle Guinée, instruits de notre prochaine arrivée, avaient donné aux indigènes le mot d'ordre pour nous reçevoir

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d une manière peu amicale, et avaient donné quelques signes pour nous reconnaître, que les indigènes étaient principalement excités par leurs South Sea Island teachers, M. McFarlane me répondit que leurs teachers parlaient souvent mal sans y être autorisés par leurs maîtres; que c'était des hommes sans éducation aux paroles desquels il fallait peu faire attention. D'ailleurs qu'il aillait écrire sur le champ à ses collègues de Port Moresby pour les engager à donner des ordres à leurs teachers; afin que ceux-ci se tiennent d'avantage dans les bornes de la discrétion. Nous verrons bientôt que ces ordres n'ont pas été observés, s'ils ont été donnés. Il parait que ces messieurs de Port Moresby n'ont pas été pleinement satisfaits de ma condescendance: au lieu d'en être reconnaissants, ils dénaturent la vérité, et la lettre de M. Lawes laisse assez voir que je n'étais pas allé assez loin en fait de concession, et il y a quelqu'apparence qu'il voudrait nous exclure entièrement de la côte sud de la Nouvelle Guinée.

V. 1. Inutile de dire que je ne considère pas leurs South Sea Island teachers comme des missionaires: ces hommes, auxquels j'accorde la mérite d'exposer leur sainté et leur vie aux intempéries d'un climat qui leur est meurtrier, faute des soins nécessaires pour les maintenir dans leur vigueur, ou pour les guérir quand ils sont malades. Ces hommes cependant ne sont pas à la hauteur de leur tâche. Ils ne sont pas formés, et diffèrent peu des sauvages au milieu desquels ils vivent en mœurs et en éducation. Ils n'ont pas de but déterminé que j'aie pu reconnaître au moins. Ils ne sont pas dirigés et manquent de surveillance, et leur vie et leurs travaux sont sans contrôle ou à peu près. J'en connais un bon nombre; il y a parmi eux de braves garçons, mais qui font de très-mauvais teachers. J'en ai peu trouvé d'intelligents, quelques-uns ont une conduite fort répréhensible, et ils sont généralement très-ignorants en religion comme en toute autre chose.

2. Il est évident que M. Lawes se donne trop d'importance lorsqu'il dit, "Our Roman Catholic friends at Yule are building "their house on our piles." Car je puis assurer M. Lawes que nous nous garderons bien de bâtir notre maison sur leurs fondements; nous craindrions trop et, avec raison, qu'elle ne croulât à la premìère tempête. Nous considérons que leurs teachers ne bâtissent que sur le sable. Ensuite il ne semble pas que nous poursuivions le même but, car, "*Qui veut la fin veut* "*les moyens*," dit un axiome philosophique, et nous ne voyons pas que ces messieurs de la société de Londres prennent des moyens efficaces pour procurer la conversion et la civilisation des indigènes de la Nouvelle Guinée. Ils n'agissent pas par eux-mêmes, et les hommes qu'ils emploient ont pour la plupart besoin de conversion et sont sans éducation.

3. Enfin, nous ne profitons pas de leurs travaux, puisque le peuple actuel de Yule Island était à Araha, village de l'intérieur de la Nouvelle Guinée, et maintenant abandonné pour cause de maladie. Ces habitants sont venus à Yule depuis que leur teacher Protestant à quitté cette île. Le teacher de Dé'éna ne

s'occupait nullement d'eux comme le fait supposer ces paroles de M. Lawes:—"Henere was the Yule Island teacher,' et quand le Père Verjees demanda à Henere s'il était chargé de Yule il répondit que oui, en effet, mais qu'il n'y allait pas, parcequ'il ne serait pas payé d'avantage.

4. J'ajouterai que, s'il n'entrait pas dans notre plan d'évangélisation de nous placer quelquefois où sont leurs teachers ou à leur proximité, bien certainement que nous les éviterions car nous n'avons jamais pensé que nous ayions quelque chose à gagner dans leur voisinage comme je vais essayer de le démontrer.

VI. M. Lawes ajoute: "They owe the safety and peacefulness of their lives to our mission." Lorsque j'envoyais le Père Verjees à Yule Island, j'ignorais qu'il y eût un teacher à Déléna, j'ignorais même qu'il y eût un Déléna. J'avoue que lorsque le Père m'écrivit qu'il avait un pareil voisin de l'autre côté de la baie, je ne fus pas sans inquiétude; les bruits de Port Moresby me revenaient à la mémoire.

Mes appréhensions n'étaient pas sans fondement; car quatre fois les teachers des environs ont tenté de soulever la population de Roro contre nous. Ils ont reussi deux fois. Les deux autres fois les gens de Roro sont venus nous avertir des dires des teachers. Ils répétaient les sottes calomnies qu'on nous faisait craindre à Port Moresby. Une première fois nous fîmes des reproches à Henere qui était l'un des coupables. Or il s'est rétracté devant le peuple même. La dernière fois les teachers étaient trois réunis chez Ratu, celui de Roro. Chimo, teacher de Naaro, district de Pokoo, porta la parole. Au rapport des habitants de Roro, il aurait dit entre autres choses qu'il fallait que nous partions ou qu'on brûlerait notre maison. Le Père Verjees le reprit vertement de sa faute que Chimo n'osa pas nier, et le menaça de vous avertir; depuis ce temps nous n'avons plus rien entendu dire.

Or ces trois teachers venaient fréquemment mendier chez nous de la nourriture et des remèdes, se plaignant amèrement de leurs mâitres qui les laissaient sans soin et sans remède, et naturellement ils trouvaient toujours une bonne hospitalité, Chimo en particulier, que nous avons soigné lui et sa femme, alors qu'il demeurait chez Henere à Déléna, et à peine sortis de notre maison ils allaient deblatérer contre nous auprès de notre peuple. Je ne veux pas parler ici des choses indécentes qu'ils disaient contre nous et de celles qu'ils faisaient eux-mêmes.

Mais comment pourrions nous attendre de la discrétion dans les paroles de ces hommes sans éducation, quand M. Lawes lui-même leur en donne l'exemple? Lorsqu'il est venu à Yule pour y placer son teacher Ratu, il a détourné de travailler à notre chapelle du village les habitants de Roro, leur disant qu'il était le seul bon missionnaire, qu'il était notre mâitre et voulait être seul au village, que nous avions bâti notre maison sur son terrain; mais qu'il fallait que nous partions. C'est le récit que

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nous firent les indigènes. Aussi je ne pense pas que M. Lawes prenne au sérieux ses paroles: "They owe the safety and peacefulness of their lives to our mission," quand c'est le contraire qui est vrai.

VII. M. Lawes ajoute: "In 1881 Mr. Chalmers found Yule "Island was deserted by the people; *that the chief Lavao* and "many of the people had gone to live at Déléna."

1. Lavao, que je connais parfaitement puisqu'il vient souvent chez nous, à bien vécu autrefois à Yule Island; mais il n'y était pas chef au rapport des anciens. D'abord je ferai remarquer qu'à Yule aussi bien qu'a Déléna, il n'y à pas de chef unique dans chaque village; mais seulement des chefs de familles indépendants les uns des autres, et Lavao pendant son séjour à Yule, n'était pas même chef de famille; il l'est à Déléna. Il n'est pas le chef de Déléna; mais un chef à Déléna.

2. Lavao n'est pas d'avantage propriétaire de Yule Island, quoique M. Lawes écrive: "We look upon Yule Island and "Delena as being most intimately connected: the Chief Lavao, and "*owner* of the island whose name it bears, is one of our people, "baptised Christian."

M. Lawes donne pour preuve que l'île appartient à Lavao, c'est qu'elle porte son nom, et c'est vrai. Mais je pense que cette raison n'est par suffisante; car je suis porté à croire que l'île existait avant que Lavao ne fut même avec ce nom. D'ailleurs à ce tître plusieurs personnes habitant actuellement l'île Yule pourraient revendiquer les mêmes droits, car nous comptons trois ou quatre Lavao dans Yule Island.

3. De plus, la première fois que les Père Verjees vint s'établier à Yule Island avec deux frères, il acheta le terrain sur lequel il bâtit sa petite maison, d'un nommé Rauma Kaïma, habitant de l'île. Lavao vint souvent visiter nos missionnaires, sans jamais songer à réclamer des droits sur le terrain occupé.

Mais lorsqu'après trois mois d'interruption, le Père Verjees revint au mois de Janvier, 1886, alors seulement Lavao vint lui dire que toute l'île lui appartenait. C'était quatre mois après que M. Lawes avait écrit la lettre à M. Musgrave laquelle fut jointe au mémorandum: Lavao est maître de l'île Yule—Lavao the real chief of Yule Island. Il y a quelqu'apparence que cette revendication était commandée pour la circonstance. Le Père Verjees, sans s'informer d'avantage, si cette réclamation était légitime ou non, lui demanda, pour l'amour de la paix, ce qu'il voulait pour ce terrain déjà payé d'ailleurs. Lavao demanda une hachette que le Père lui donna, soupçonnant cependant qu'il pourrait bien y avoir une escroquerie et une fourberie de la part du protégé de M. Lawes.

4. Lorsque plus tard nous voulûmes délimiter exactement le terrain que nous avions acheté de plusieurs habitants de l'île, nous avions réuni tous les hommes de Roro, afin de nous assurer que le terrain acheté appartenait bien à ceux qui nous l'avaient vendu, et

que dans l'avenir il n'y eût aucune contestation. Ce point règlé, nous avons objecté les prétentions de Lavao sur l'île entière. Tous se sont levés comme un seul homme pour protester contre cette prétention. Cependant ils s'accordèrent tous à reconnaître que Lavao en avait deux petites portions; l'une située dans Port Leon dans un lieu nommé Kaïroku, et une seconde à l'autre extrémité de l'île où il a une plantation de bananiers et quelques cocotiers. Mais c'était tout; ce qui nous confirme que Lavao nous avait trompés.

VIII. Mais je suppose que nous quittions l'île Yule, où devrions-nous aller pour ne pas porter ombrage à M. Lawes? Dans la lettre qu'il a écrite à M. Musgrave, il dit encore:—"I might add "that our mission really extends to Bald Head, about 130 miles "west of Yule Island, although we have not teachers actually "residing beyond Motu Motu." Il dit qu'ils n'ont pas de teachers au-delà de Motu Motu, et c'est vrai. Or ce village est à 40 miles de Yule Island. Bald Head est donc à 90 miles au-delà de leur dernier teacher; à quel titre M. Lawes revendique-t-il cet espace de 90 miles comme étant leur mission? Est-ce qui si nous nous établissions dans cet espace, nous bâtirions sur leurs *piles*? Cependant je ne pense pas que l'éloquence de ses teachers se fasse entendre à 90 miles à la ronde. S'il m'était permis d'employer ici une métaphore, je représenterais M. Lawes à Port Moresby étendant son bras droit jusqu'à East Cape et son bras gauche jusqu'à Bald Head, et s'écrier, "Tout ceci est à moi; si nos amis les romains "catholiques osent s'établir dans cet espace, ils manqueront de "sentiment d'honneur, ils bâtiront sur nos fondements, et voudront "profiter du salut et de la paix de notre mission." Je pense avoir demontré ce que valeut les réclamations de M. Lawes.

Je regrette, Excellence, d'avoir eu cette rectification à faire. Mais c'est à vous que M. Lawes avait écrit sa lettre qui contient le plus d'erreurs, et vous êtes l'autorité dans cette contrée; sa lettre pouvait nuire à nos bons rapports. Tant que M. Lawes n'a écrit contre nous que dans les journaux, je m'en suis peu soucié. Car nous ne nous dirigeons pas par un article de journal, et il nous importe peu que le public, induit en erreur, pense de nous ce qu'il voudra, pourvu que cette opinion n'entrave pas notre œuvre.

Si dans l'avenir les teachers de ces messieurs commettaient contre nous des délits passibles des lois, ce n'est pas au public que je m'adresserais, parcequ'il n'a ni mission pour juger ni pouvoir pour réprimer les infractions. Mais c'est à votre Excellence que je porterais mes plaintes, parceque je ne reconnais qu'à vous le droit et la compétence de juger en pareils cas.

Je puis vous assurer que jamais ni trouble ni attaque ne commenceront de notre part. La direction que nous donnons au peuple qui suit nos instructions les prévient contre toute mésintelligence avec qui que ce soit. C'est notre devoir et notre avantage de faire aimer et respecter l'autorité établie. Nous ne gagnons rien dans la discorde et les inimitiés, qui sont contraires

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à nos principes, à notre but, et par conséquent ne peuvent que nuire au succès de notre mission.

Daignez agréer, Excellence,
l'assurance des respectueux sentiments
De votre très sincèrement dévoué dans le Seigneur
L. A. NAVARRE, Miss. S. C.,
Supérieur de la Mission de la Mélanesie
et de la Micronesie.

À son Excellence l'honorable M. Douglas.

[TRANSLATION.]

Society of the Missionaries of the Sacred
Heart, Vicariate Apostolic of Melanesia
and Micronesia, Yule Island,
May 5, 1887.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Permit me to address you in my own language, as I write English so imperfectly that I fear I should not express myself with the necessary clearness, and I know that your Excellency reads French with as much ease as your native language.

I. I have read with great interest your report on New Guinea for the year 1886, which you have had the kindness to send me. I have seen, with much pleasure, the works which have already been accomplished under your auspices, and the order established to ensure the prosperity of this new English Colony.

I am happy to see that the object of Her Majesty's Government as well as your own desire is that the Protectorate should carry peace to these savage tribes, should protect them from one another, and put an end to their almost incessant warfare; that it should raise them from their moral degradation by religious instruction which calls them to the sublime destiny for which God placed them on this earth; should civilise them by habits of labour so useful for the development of their strength, for the maintenance of health, and for the increase of their welfare, and should soften their relations between themselves and with the white people who will soon come in contact with them. In this course, your Excellency will always find us fighting by your side, aiding your generous efforts by every means in our power.

I have also read the letter which you have written to Mr. Lawes to induce him to withdraw his teacher from Yule Island (Roro). I thank you for this proof of your desire for peace. I note also the reply of Mr. Lawes, but his letter contains many inaccuracies, which tend to lead your Excellency into error concerning the straightforwardness of our intentions. I feel it my duty to correct these statements, but before doing so I shall lay before you a brief summary of our objects, our wishes, and our means of action.

II. Our objects, as you know, are the conversion and civilisation of savages. The former regards their eternal destiny, the latter

is concerned with their temporal well-being. The conversion at which we aim is change of habits, so that he who formerly lived without law, without restraint, guided only by caprice, follows henceforward a law which regulates and directs the actions of his life. It is also a change of intentions, so that he who formerly confined his desires to material things, henceforward aspires to and labours for the attainment of the eternal reward of his fidelity in fulfilling the will of God—a change which raises him above the brute, and enables him to endure with patience the miseries of this life.

2. Civilisation consists in social and industrial training. Social training should regulate the relations of men between themselves on this principle of Christian charity: "Do not to others what you "would not wish should be done unto you;" and this other, which is its complement, "whatsoever you would that men should do "unto you even so do ye also to them."

Industrial training consists in giving savages, who are generally indolent and lazy, habits of labour proportioned to their strength and to the exigencies of the climate, especially agricultural labour so favourable to the establishment of homes, to morality, and even to health, and which would be the source of a well-being with which they are at present unacquainted—labour which I may say is so necessary to the prosperity of this Colony. For in the climate of New Guinea it is very difficult for the white race to work in the sun either for the cultivation of the soil, the exploitation of the forests, or even of the mines which may be found hereafter.

The native when broken-in to work will be the necessary aid of the white man who will bring to him the benefits of our civilisation. For this reason the first white people who settle amongst our aboriginals in New Guinea should conduct themselves so as to be good examples of our social life and not patterns of its vices. This is at least what we for our part shall endeavour to do and teach.

3. We do not conceal from ourselves the difficulties of such an undertaking. We feel that without the assistance of God we should succumb under so heavy a burden. But as it is for His glory alone that we labour, we trust that this assistance will not fail us. Continuing the work of the Divine Master who came upon earth to raise us also, to enlighten us and to bring us the hope of a better life, we endeavour to render what we have received.

As formerly, Augustine, Patrick, Denis, were sent to convert our fathers who were called barbarians by the then civilised nations of the world, and whose manners, in reality, differed little from those of our savages of New Guinea, so also are we sent to carry this same light of the Gospel into these far-off lands.

Pope Gregory did not think it unworthy of the religion of Christ to send to our fathers those of his subjects who were most remarkable for science, and virtue, and sanctity. And in this he acted with considerable wisdom, for if he had sent ignorant men, or men whose lives were otherwise than exemplary, it is most

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probable that our fathers would have remained in their barbarous condition, and that Europe, instead of being the most civilised region of the earth—the one which enlightens all others—would still resemble those lands where the light of the Gospel has not yet penetrated or from which it has been shut out.

Down to the present day the Roman Church continues to send only well-tried priests into savage and barbarous countries. If she does not always find men of the strength of soul and the holiness of life which distinguished the Augustines and the Patricks, she yet requires in those whom she sends conditions which she does not exact of those who remain in civilised countries. For, besides the scientific training which is the same for all priests, she requires of those whom she destines for the evangelisation of savages, a complete abnegation of their own comforts, however high may have been the positions they occupied or are fit to occupy in Europe. They must be ready to endure excessive heat and cold, fatigue of all kinds, hunger and thirst, sickness, death itself, in order to win souls for Jesus Christ. They must labour with their hands, if it be necessary, for their living or for the support of the mission. The missionaries must also adopt the savages for their family and never think of returning to their native land.

4. The missionaries have themselves to provide the means of accomplishing this great work of the conversion and civilisation of the savages. The Pope who sends them has not the means of providing their expenses. When the missioners have private means, they employ them generally in the support of the missions. If they have not, they must live on the alms of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and other charities, and this is the case in the vast majority of missions. But these alms are almost always insufficient in the commencement. For example: last year (1886), we received about 1,300*l.*, and expended 800*l.* in the single item of travelling in order to bring our subjects from Europe or from Sydney to Thursday or Yule Island, and for the various visits backwards and forwards from one of these islands to the other. So that we have had only 500*l.* for the food and clothing of 25 persons in New Guinea and New Britain, where we have also a mission. For this reason we feel the necessity of supplementing our resources by agriculture, rearing cattle, &c., and in these occupations we can make but slow progress on account of the narrowness of our means. For agricultural purposes Yule Island presents many advantages.

5. The sort of life we lead might appear incredible to those who are not acquainted with the life of the missionary, particularly in the commencement of his career. Such was, however, the life of the men who enlightened our native lands. They lived on alms, slept on the ground, and often knew not to-day where they would find the food for the morrow—a care, be it said, which counted amongst the least that occupied their minds. They trusted to Him who feeds the birds of the air, and they knew that He would not leave His faithful servants without assistance. They were

sometimes in want of everything, but their sufferings and their privations brought the benediction of God upon their works.

Endeavouring to walk in their footsteps, we also trouble ourselves but little for our present poverty, having the same hopes by which they were sustained.

III. In consequence of the smallness of our resources we are forced to arrange our plan of evangelisation so as to incur the least possible expense. Rome, or the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, had marked out Port Moresby as the place for our first establishment in New Guinea and Thursday Island as our sanatorium.

The order to go to Port Moresby was not absolute; it was merely a direction which we always willingly obey unless unforeseen circumstances should arise. Port Moresby was the place best known; it was connected by boat with Thursday Island, and the projected protectorate of England over New Guinea gave hopes of frequent communication—advantages of which we wished to avail ourselves.

Hence it was that when in September, 1885, General Scratchley proposed to me to abandon Yule Island in order that he might send us to the north-east coast of New Guinea or to the Louisiade Archipelago, it was impossible for me to comply with his wish, because this arrangement would place us at too great a distance from our sanatorium, would cause heavy expenses for travelling, and would deprive us of the conveniences in the way of communication which were about to be established between Thursday Island and the southern coast of New Guinea. Moreover, I had many reasons for thinking that the General was in this matter yielding to pressure from the members of the London Society, who exhibited in their writings a desire to shut us out from the southern side of New Guinea.

IV. Now, I beg your Excellency's permission to make a few observations on the incorrect and unkind statements so frequent in Mr. Lawes's letter of the 6th August 1886, which is embodied in your report. Mr. Lawes says, "The Father (Verjees) replied that "their orders from Rome to occupy Yule Island were definite "and explicit." In another letter which he has written to Father Verjees when withdrawing his teacher from Roro (Yule Island), he says also:—"Mr. McFarlane writes me that, in the conversa-"tion he had with Father Navarre at Thursday Island, he strongly "urged him to take up new ground, and not go to Yule Island "where a Protestant mission was established."

These two quotations are entirely incorrect. As to the first, which is taken from a conversation which Mr Lawes had with Father Verjees, Mr. Lawes's memory must be at fault, for our orders from Rome were to go to Port Moresby and not to Yule Island. It was I who gave Father Verjees the order to go to Yule Island, and I shall tell you under what circumstances I thought it my duty to act so far in contravention to the direction received from Rome.

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We had been only a few months established at Thursday Island, awaiting a favourable occasion to proceed to Port Moresby; for the service of the "Elsea" was suspended since the proclamation of the protectorate. I met Mr. McFarlane at the house of Mr. Chester, the Police Magistrate of Thursday Island. The interview took place in presence of Mrs. Chester. I hope Mr. Lawes will not refuse the testimony of this honourable lady. I said first to Mr. McFarlane that it was our intention to go to Port Moresby as soon as possible. He replied that our presence at Port Moresby would give very great trouble to his colleagues (information which we had already received from several persons), and he begged of me to make choice of some other place. He even mentioned Fairfax Harbour as a suitable place for our purpose. Without deciding on this place I promised Mr. McFarlane that as our establishment at Port Moresby would be so disagreeable to his colleagues we would put off going there if we found upon the coast another place suitable for our first establishment.

Subsequently to this we sought information from men acquainted with the southern coast of New Guinea, and having selected Yule Island I sent Father Verjees thither.

In the same conversation, I remarked to Mr. McFarlane that, when at Cooktown and Thursday Island, many persons coming from Port Moresby and other points of the coast told us that the gentlemen of the London Society residing in New Guinea, being informed of our intended arrival, had given the aboriginals the *mot d'ordre* to receive us in an unfriendly manner, and had given them certain signs by which they could recognise us, and that the aboriginals were principally excited by their South Sea Island teachers. Mr. McFarlane replied that their teachers often spoke in a way that was wrong, and for which they had no authorisation from their masters; that they were men without any education whose words were not worth being noticed. However, that he was going to write immediately to his colleagues at Port Moresby, and ask them to order their teachers to restrain themselves within more becoming limits. We shall see that these orders if given have never been obeyed. It appears that my condescendence has not been sufficient to satisfy these gentlemen of Port Moresby. Instead of being thankful for it, they pervert the truth. Mr. Lawes's letter shows clearly that I did not go far enough in the way of concession, and it seems to reveal a desire to exclude us entirely from the southern coast of New Guinea.

V. Needless to say that I do not consider their South Sea Island teachers as missionaries—these men, in whom I recognise the merit of exposing their health and their lives to the inclemency of a climate which to them is deadly for want of the care necessary to preserve their health or restore it when sickness overtakes them. They are, however, not equal to the task imposed upon them. They are not trained, and they differ little in morals or training from the savages amongst whom they live. They have no fixed object in view, as far at least as I could see. They are not under direction or supervision, and their life and their works

are without control or nearly so. I know a large number of them. There are amongst them some good fellows, but they are very bad teachers. I found few of them intelligent. The conduct of some of them is very reprehensible, and they are generally ignorant in religious as well as in all other matters.

2. It is evident that Mr. Lawes assumes too much importance when he says, "our Roman Catholic friends at Yule Island are "building their house on our piles," for I can assure Mr. Lawes we shall take very good care not to build our house on their foundations. We should have very justifiable fears that the first storm would bring it to the ground. We consider that their teachers are building only on sand. Moreover, we do not seem to be aiming at the same end, for a philosophical axiom says, "*Qui veut "la fin veut les moyens,*" and we do not see that these gentlemen of the London Society are taking efficacious means for the conversion and civilisation of these aboriginals of New Guinea. They do not act themselves, and the men they employ are for the most part in need of conversion, and are totally devoid of training.

3. Finally, we do not avail ourselves of their labours, because the present inhabitants of Yule Island were formerly at Araha, a village of the interior of New Guinea, now abandoned on account of sickness. These people came to Yule after the Protestant teacher had left the island. The Delena teacher took no trouble with them, as we may infer from these words of Mr. Lawes: "Henere was the Yule Island teacher," and when Father Verjees asked Henere if he was in charge of Yule he replied that he was, but that he did not go there because he would not be paid anything more for doing so.

4. I will add that if it did not enter into our plan of evangelisation to go sometimes where their teachers are stationed or into their neighbourhood, we certainly would avoid them, for we never thought that we had anything to gain by contact with them, as I shall endeavour to show you.

VI. Mr. Lawes adds: "They owe the safety and peacefulness "of their lives to our mission." When I sent Father Verjees to Delena I did not know there was a teacher at Delena; I was ignorant even of the existence of Delena: I confess that when the Father wrote to me that he had such a neighbour on the other side of the bay I was not free from uneasiness. The rumours of Port Moresby returned to my mind.

My apprehensions were not without foundation: four times the teachers endeavoured to rouse the population of Roro against us. They succeeded twice. On two other occasions the people of Roro came to inform us of the language of the teachers. They repeated the stupid calumnies of which we were warned at Port Moresby. On the first of these occasions, having reproached Henere who was one of the guilty, he retracted before the people. The other time three teachers met at the house of Ratu, the teacher of Roro. Chimo, teacher of Naaro, a district of Pokoo, addressed them. According to the inhabitants of Roro, he said amongst other things that we should leave or our house would be burned down. Father

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Verjees spoke to him sharply about this proceeding, which he did not dare to deny, and threatened to inform you of it. Since that time we have heard nothing more.

Now these three teachers came often to beg of us food and medicine, complaining bitterly of their employers who left them uncared for, and without the remedies they required. Naturally we received them with hospitality (in particular Chimo and his wife whom we attended when they lived with Henere), and they had hardly left our house when they began to let loose their tongues against us amongst our people. I will not speak in this letter of the indecent things they said with regard to us, nor of the indecent acts which they themselves committed.

But how could we expect discretion in the language of these ignorant men when Mr. Lawes himself gives them so bad an example? When he came to Yule to instal his teacher Ratu, he prevented the inhabitants of Roro from working at our village chapel, saying that he was the only good missionary, that he was our master, and wanted to have the village all to himself; that we had built our house on his ground, but that we should be forced to quit. This is the account which we got from the aboriginals. I cannot, therefore, think that Mr. Lawes is serious when he says: "They owe the safety and peacefulness of their lives to our "mission," a statement quite opposed to the truth.

VI. Mr. Lawes adds: "In 1881 Mr. Chalmers found Yule "Island was deserted by the people; that the Chief Lavao and "many of the people had gone to live at Delena."

1. Lavao, whom I know very well as he comes often to our mission, did indeed live formerly on Yule Island, but he was not the chief, as we are informed by the older inhabitants—in fact, there is no supreme chief in each village: there are only heads or chiefs of families independent of one another, and Lavao while he lived at Yule was not even chief of a family. He is such at Delena. He is not chief of Delena, but a chief at Delena.

2. Nor is Lavao owner of Yule Island, although Mr. Lawes writes: "We look upon Yule Island and Delena as being most "intimately connected: the Chief Lavao, and owner of the island "whose name it bears, is one of our people, baptised Christian."

Mr. Lawes gives as a proof that the island belongs to Lavao the fact that it bears his name, and this is true. But it seems to me this reason is not sufficient, for I am inclined to think the island existed before Lavao received this name. And indeed many other persons at present residing on Yule Island might claim it by the same title, for we know of three or four Lavaos on the island.

3. Moreover, when Father Verjees first took up his abode in Yule with two brothers he bought the land on which he built his little house from a certain Rauma Kaïma, an inhabitant of the island. Lavao often came to visit our missionaries without even thinking of claiming any rights over the land so occupied.

It was only when, after an interval of three months, Father Verjees returned in the month of January, 1886, that Lavao came and said that the whole island belonged to him. This was four

months after Mr. Lawes had written to Mr. Musgrave the letter which was appended to the memorandum : Lavao the real chief of Yule Island. It appears probable that this claim was ordered to be set up for the occasion. Father Verjees, without inquiring any further whether this claim was legitimate or not, asked him, for peace sake, what he required for the land for which as I have said payment had been already made. Lavao demanded a hatchet, and this the father gave him, suspecting, however, that probably a trick and imposture were being played upon him by Mr. Lawes's *protégé*.

4. When at a later period we wished to define more exactly the limits of the lands which we had bought from several of the inhabitants of the island, we called together all the men of Roro in order to make sure that the land we had purchased belonged really to those who had sold it, and that there might be no disputes in the future. This point being arranged, we mentioned the claims of Lavao to the whole island. They all rose in a body to protest against this claim. However, they all agreed that Lavao had two small portions—one situated at Port Leo in a place called Kaïrokee, and a second at the other extremity of the island, where he has a plantation of bananas and a few cocoa-trees. But that was all. We were therefore confirmed in the belief that he had deceived us.

VIII. But even if we were to leave the island, where should we go in order not to give umbrage to Mr. Lawes? In the letter which he has written to Mr. Musgrave he says: "I might add that "our mission really extends to Bald Head about 130 miles west "of Yule Island, although we have not teachers actually residing "beyond Motu Motu." He says truly that they have no teachers beyond Motu Motu. Now this village is 40 miles from Yule Island. Bald Head is therefore 90 miles beyond their furthest teacher. By what title does Mr. Lawes claim this space of 90 miles as being a part of their mission? If we settle on this space shall we be building on their piles? I do not think that the eloquence of their teachers can be heard 90 miles round. If I might use a metaphor, I would represent Mr. Lawes at Port Moresby stretching out his right arm as far as East Cape, and his left arm as far as Bald Head, and crying out "all this is mine; if "our friends the Roman Catholics dare to settle on this space they "will be wanting in the sentiments of honour, they will be build-"ing on our foundations, they will be endeavouring to avail them-"selves of the safety and the peace of our mission." I think I have shown what value is to be attached to the pretensions of Mr. Lawes.

I regret your Excellency that I have been obliged to make these corrections. But it is to you that Mr. Lawes has addressed the letter which contains the largest number of misstatements; you are the governing authority in this country, and his letter might injure our good relations. As long as Mr. Lawes only wrote against us in the newspapers I took little notice of it, as we are not guided by newspaper articles, and we leave the misled

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public to think what they like about us as long as their opinion does not interfere with our work.

Henceforth, if the teachers of these gentlemen commit any offences against us punishable by law, it is not to the public I shall apply for redress, as they have neither mission to judge nor power to punish such violations of the peace, but I shall lodge my complaints with your Excellency, because I acknowledge in you alone the right and the power to judge in such cases.

I can assure you that never shall trouble or attack commence on our side. The guidance we give to the people who follow our teaching guards them against all variance with anyone whatever. It is our duty and our advantage to inspire love and respect for the constituted authorities. We should gain nothing by discord and enmity, which are opposed to our inclinations, to our principles, and to the object we have in view, and which consequently could only injure the success of our mission.

I beg your Excellency to accept the expression of the respect with which I am yours sincerely devoted in the Lord.

L. A. NAVARRE, Missioner of the Sacred Heart,
Superior of the Mission of Melanesi
and Micronesia.

To his Excellency
The Hon. Mr. Douglas.

The Rev. W. G. LAWES to the SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

Mission House, Port Moresby,
New Guinea, November 1, 1887.

DEAR MR. DOUGLAS,

I HAVE carefully read the letter of Father Navarre, which you kindly gave me to-day.

I do not think it is necessary, and I am sure it would not be profitable, to enter into any discussion of the many points raised by the Reverend Father. Our character and work are sufficiently well known to you to render explanations and protestations superfluous.

Perhaps, if Father Navarre had known us better, he would not have given such ready credence to the idle reports upon which his estimate of us seems formed, and he would have been saved from saying of our teachers that which is not true. I enclose a copy of my letter to Father Verjus when I removed Ratu, our teacher, from Yule Island. It is the sequel to that which was published in the report referred to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. G. LAWES.

The Hon. John Douglas, C.M.G.,
Special Commissioner for British New Guinea.

The Rev. W. G. LAWES to Father VERJUS.

REV. SIR, Port Moresby, January 3, 1887.

A NEW Year's greeting to you and your brethren at Yule Island.

On the occasion of our conference in August last, I told you that I did not feel justified in removing our teacher from Yule on my own responsibility. I communicated at once with my colleague and the directors of our society in London, and they have referred the matter back to me. As neither I nor my colleagues have any wish to be obstructive, nor yet to place teachers where their work is not necessary, I have resolved to remove Ratu from Yule Island. I find from conversation with him that the same people attend both his services and yours, and as there are so few people on the island, it seems to me a waste of strength and energy to keep him where you have already so large a staff.

I feel very strongly the desirability of different sections of the Christian Church working harmoniously in a great land like this, and I did hope that your brotherhood would have felt the advantage of beginning their self-denying work in an entirely new field. Mr. McFarlane writes me that in the conversation he had with Father Navarre at Thursday Island, he strongly urged him to take up new ground, and not go to Yule Island where a Protestant mission was already established.

As, however, your fraternity seems to think it right and good to occupy Yule Island permanently, I remove Ratu in the interests of peace and goodwill, and wish you all success in the work you propose among the heathen of New Guinea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. G. LAWES,
of the London Missionary Society,

To the Rev. Father Verjus.

APPENDIX F.

EXPEDITION TO THE EASTERN SLOPES OF MOUNT OWEN STANLEY.

Instructions for Mr. H. O. Forbes.

I have already fully discussed with you the scope and limits of the contemplated expedition to the interior under your orders.

The season is somewhat advanced, but I hope that you may have six or eight weeks of fine weather before the periodical rains set in. You should, if possible, return before the end of November.

The object of the expedition should be to accomplish as much as possible within that period. I propose that the route of the

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Goldie should be followed up to its head waters. Beyond that, and from such observations as you may be able to make in that vicinity, you must decide as to the direction to be taken. The ascent of any specified altitude I do not regard as of paramount importance. Your principal object should be to extend the area of geographical discovery, and to fix the points reached, so that they may be identified and connected, if possible, with previously ascertained positions.

The party will consist of yourself, Denis Gleeson, George Belford, Jack Tanna, and Cæsar Lifu. There will be eight horses, all of them to be used for packing purposes.

The horses will be especially under the charge of Gleeson.

The party, as a whole, will be under your orders, and subject to your instructions in every respect.

Gleeson, being acquainted with the country up to the head of the Goldie, may be looked to for guidance up to that point.

Everything having been provided which you require, it is desirable that you should start as soon as possible.

JOHN DOUGLAS,
Special Commissioner.

Granville, New Guinea,
29th September 1887.

Mr. H. O. Forbes's Report.

SIR, Cooktown, December 7, 1887.

I HAVE to report to your Excellency that I returned to Port Moresby on the 7th of November from the surveying expedition on which I was despatched on the 1st October, the results of which I have now the honour to lay before you.

October 1st.—Left Port Moresby at 8.45, accompanied by Denis Gleeson, in charge of the eight packhorses which carried our impedimenta, and by George Belford, Jack Tanna, and Cæsar Lifu. Employing the stations fixed (by Lieutenant Commander Pullen, R.N.) between the coast and the Astrolabe Range, I endeavoured to lay down with great care at every available opportunity our exact position, and to plot-in as much of the surrounding country as possible. We kept nearly a north-east course during the day, and crossed the Laroki River at its junction with the Goldie, 1 p.m.; and at 2.30 pitched our camp [Camp I.] on a rising ground a short distance beyond the river. In taking the river several of the horses were forced by the stream into deep water, wetting their packs.

October 2nd.—As it was necessary to dry the packs, and as the route now entered the valley of the Goldie, making it necessary for me to fix with great accuracy such prominent points in the landscape as could be seen from the stations I might be able to select along its course, I decided to spend this day here. I accordingly proceeded in the early morning to a hill in the neighbourhood, whence I was successful in accomplishing my

object. The afternoon was fully occupied in plotting the positions obtained.

The lowest temperature of the previous night was 75° F.; at 5.30 a.m., 76° F.; highest temperature in the shade, 89° F. Heavy rain in the afternoon.

October 3rd.—After restoring the packs and saddling the horses, started at 9 on a course to the east of north-east, following the direction of the Goldie River. Every opportunity was taken advantage of for fixing positions on the route, and of the surrounding country, but not so many occurred as I could have desired, as the country was, though undulating, on the whole pretty even. As it threatened rain we camped at 1 o'clock [Camp II.] under the shadow of a prominent rocky mountain, which was originally known as Mount Lawes. This name has been transferred in the newer charts to a mountain on the coast side of the Laroki River; I have therefore given it the name of Mount Seymour Fort.

Lowest temperature of previous night, 74° F.; 5.45, 74° F.

October 4th.—River Goldie rather swollen and too swift to cross this morning. My leg injured on the 1st has become an ulcer, so on both these accounts I decided to remain the day here, and, from a high hill close by the camp, take the bearings which it was impossible to obtain yesterday, and to plot those already in the angle book.

Lowest temperature of previous night, 75·5° F.; at 5.30, 75·5° F. Highest reading, 94° F. Heavy rain at 2 p.m.

October 5th.—River impossible to cross. Gleeson and the two South Sea Islanders employed the forenoon in cutting a track by the river bank, in case the river should not be passable to-morrow. I continued the extension of the survey.

Lowest temperature of previous night, 71° F.; 5.30 a.m., 71° F. Highest reading in shade, 100° F.

October 6th.—Packed up camp and got under weigh at 9 a.m. The track followed the windings of the river, and bore much more to the east than I liked. It will be remembered that Gleeson, giving plainly a very exaggerated *distance* of his furthest camp from port, yet was confident of the *direction* as north-east. As yet we have followed far from a north-east course. Carried on the survey as usual, and camped on the eastern side of the River Goldie at 1.30 p.m. [Camp III.]; our camps being often determined by the occurrence of grass patches on which to turn out the horses, whose labour record has been a very good one. The nature of the country from port to this camp has been all of a kind, grassy country dotted with stunted gum, except by the river-sides, where a dense scrub exists of many sorts of trees, some of them of giant proportions, but of what utility I have no means of knowing, as our time would not allow of any botanical or other collection being made, at all events in these lower parts of the country.

Lowest temperature of previous night, 71° F.; 6 a.m., 73° F. Great pest of small *Hymenoptera*—worse than mosquitoes.

October 7th.—Got under weigh at 9 o'clock. Leaving the river and proceeding at first westerly, we ascended the first hill of any

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size we had yet encountered. We followed this razorback ridge in an E. 6° S. direction, varying in altitude from 500 to nearly 1,000 feet. Hitherto we had reached very little above 150 to 200 feet above sea-level.

The difficulties of fixing our position were greatly increased by our having entered a more densely-wooded country. It was necessary for me to employ the axe in several places to get a lookout.

Camped at 2.30 at an elevation of 600 feet. [Camp IV.] Suffering very much from the sore on my leg, which has now become a large ulcer.

Lowest night temperature, 73° F.

October 8th.—My leg too painful to go forward to-day; decided to rest for the day. Did some plotting in the camp, and got a spot cleared in hope that at last the night might prove sufficiently clear to enable me to take observations for latitude; but the sky, as every night since our start, became overclouded. Jack Tanna down with fever.

Highest temperature in shade, 100·5°. Heavy rain at 3.30.

October 9th.—*Cached* two tin boxes with sufficient provisions to carry us from here to the coast. During the night the horses broke back and Cæsar had to go back in quest of them. I started with Jack for a clear hill some miles in advance to obtain a round of bearings before the arrival of Gleeson and the horses. I obtained there a very accurate series of observations. At 2 p.m., as Gleeson and his party had not arrived, I returned along the track for a couple of miles and found that a camp had been formed by a sorghum patch. [Camp V.] The sky had become overcast and it was thought best to camp there. The horses had fled back to the camp of the previous day, so that it was late before a start could be made this morning.

Lowest temperature of previous night, 70° F.

October 10th.—A rough and difficult journey of steep ascents and descents, leading us again to the River Goldie, where we crossed it at its junction of a large branch entering on the right. We crossed just in time, for a heavy rain set in which drenched some of the baggage, as we had some distance to go before it was possible to camp. The rain was unfortunate in coming on this day, as the track to be followed on the next day was up an ascent which could not be attempted if the ground was very wet. Camped by river-bank. [Camp VI.]

Lowest temperature of the previous night, 70° F.

October 11th.—Saddles and wet clothes put out to dry. Gleeson obtained some fish with dynamite, as it was too wet to proceed.

Lowest night temperature, 69° F.; highest shade temperature, 103° F. Very close; heavy thunder in distance; no rain

October 12th.—Left camp at 8.10; crossed River Goldie and began ascent of the mountain; reached the summit about 1,500 feet at noon, having been travelling in a south-easterly direction. From the summit our route turned northward, and descended again to

the river, which was reached at 1.45, whence, proceeding easterly, we camped at 2.30 p.m., by the side of the river. [Camp VII.]

Since our third camp the geological nature of the country, where visible, has been apparently a primary slate. The boulders and pebbles in the river-bed consisted also of granite and porphyry. Here, however, the rough conglomerate, of which the Astrolabe Mountains are composed, reappeared, and presented marks of being a true sedimentary deposit, and not a volcanic breccia as has been said by some travellers. Not only are there abundant pot-stones in it, but the spaces left vacant by trees that have rotted out.

Lowest night temperature, 69° F.

October 13*th*.—Continued our journey at 9.50, travelling the whole day in the bed of the river, in which granite, porphyry, and slate boulders abounded, with huge crags of conglomerate stranded in mid water. At 1.36 we were overtaken by a heavy thunder-storm, which necessitated our camping where we were. [Camp VIII.] This morning we killed with dynamite some seven or eight dozen of fine large mullet, which we smoked for future use.

Lowest temperature of previous night, 69° F.

October 14*th*.—Continued our journey again, using the river-bed as a highway. Gleeson fired another cartridge in a hole close by the camp, and added about 1 cwt. of fish to our food supply before we started. We reached the point, beyond which the horses could not go, where our main camp was to be formed. [Camp IX.] On taking a survey of our whereabouts, I was surprised and disappointed to find that we were quite close to my old camp at Kaukari, where in 1886 I had, in company with the Rev. Mr. Chalmers, convened the chiefs of Ebe, Bereka, and the neighbouring villages, in order to come to friendly terms with them, for they had kept aloof and had been unfriendly since their attack on Mr. Morrison. At that time they occupied villages further down the river and nearer the coast; now, the whole intervening region between the coast and this is uninhabited. We saw no natives throughout our journey thus far. Some native humpies existed here, which we used partly for storing and cooking purposes, while our flies were comfortably pitched around. The packs were undone and all wet or damp contents exposed to the sun. On the slopes opposite the camp fine young grass was in abundance, and on this pasture the horses were turned out.

Lowest night temperature, 63° F.

October 15*th*.—Took stock of all our stores and apportioned the rations to the time we expected to be out.

As no natives had put in an appearance since our arrival, I sent Cæsar to the hill on the crest of which the Ebe people had their village, to show himself and bring some of them to the camp; on his approach they all armed themselves, some made off, and some approached him. He called out in Koiari that he was a friend, and that a white lohiabada was camped by the river. Their arms were at once thrown away and a friendship struck up. Some twenty or thirty of them accompanied him to our camp, where I

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received them with every sign of friendship and made each of them a gift of a little tobacco, while I purchased the yams they had brought for salt, which afforded them the most evident gratification. They remained several hours. We told them our intention of going to the great mountain, indicating its position; but we made no overtures to them to accompany us. I asked a couple of them, however, to accompany me to the top of a high hill to the north of the camp, where I hoped to be able to get a good set of observations. At dusk our friends left us.

Lowest temperatnre of previous night, 67° F.

October 16*th.*—Started with Jack and my guides at 6.55 a.m. for the hill mentioned above, whence I hoped to be able to con a road to the Main Range, from which we were distant as the crow flies 24 miles. Clouds began to gather early, and though I obtained a number of "fixes" for many of the peaks surrounding the camp, the elevation was too low to get any view towards Mount Owen Stanley, or towards the low saddle which I believe exists to the west of that mountain. The only available high land appeared to be the elevated peaks behind the Kaukari group of villages, which it would be therefore necessary for me to ascend.

On my return to camp I was occupied till 9 p.m. in plotting-in the angles obtained during the past day or two, which it was impossible to do owing to the rain and discomfort of our camps.

Engaged three or four natives to accompany me to the high range behind Kaukari.

Lowest temperature of preceding night, 70° F.; highest day reading, 95·5° F. Thunder at 11.30, and heavy rain from 12.30 till 3 p.m.

Gleeson I sent to the river to obtain some more fish; he returned with nearly 2 cwt. of mullet and bream, some of the fishes weighing as much as 8 to 10 lbs. They were, like the others, smoked for gradual consumption.

October 17*th.*—The natives who had agreed to come and guide me to the mountain range to our southward did not put in an appearance, so employed the day in plotting the bearings already taken, which fall in very accurately, both with those taken now and those taken during my stay at Sogere and Kaukari. Also took some photographs.

Thunder without rain from 6 to 8 p.m.

Lowest night reading, 71° F.; at 6 p.m., 81° F.

October 18*th.*—No natives, to our great surprise, put in an appearance to-day, again; so ascended the river for some distance, and then ascended a steep spur towards Ebe village, without seeing any natives. I secured, however, a few observations. I gathered also a new species (if not a new genus) of fern.

Lowest night temperature, 74° F.; highest reading in shade, 97° F.

October 19*th.*—The natives who had agreed to accompany me to the mountain came in this morning all ready for the journey. They had evidently been, as far as we could understand them, busy in their gardens, and so could not come. I got ready at once, and

taking Jack Tanna with me, started at 7.50. At 12.30 we were overtaken by heavy rain and dense clouds, and so decided to camp at an elevation of 3,300 feet.

Lowest temperature of previous night, 72° F.; highest reading at camp, 98° F.

October 20th.—After an uncomfortable night, as we had to lie on the wet ground, I roused the camp at 4 a.m., and started at 5.30 a.m. for the summit, which after some rough climbing—in many places, indeed, impossible of ascent except for the climbing plants which, firmly rooted in the crevices of the conglomerate rock, enabled us to ascend. Reached the top at 6.15, at 4,500 feet, and had a splendid view of all the country to the Main Range along the coast from Yule Island to nearly Round Head. The way to Mount Owen Stanley was quite plain, and I selected the route to be followed. I obtained a very valuable set of observations here, but not without the laborious felling of a large number of trees. Left summit at 10.45 a.m. and reached our camp at 1.15. Rain began to fall as we arrived, and continued all afternoon and evening. We showed the natives the trade we were willing to give to those who would pack us to the "great mountain," and obtained all the volunteers we desired. They agreed to be ready the next morning.

October 21st.—No natives. Sent Gleeson with Cæsar and Jack in quest of same. Continued the plotting of the bearings taken yesterday.

Rain began at 1 p.m. and continued to 3 p.m., and from 4.45 to 5.30. Highest reading, 91·5°.

October 22nd.—Had spot cleared for astronomical observation, in the hope of a clear night, before our start; but the night was, as usual, overcast.

Lowest night reading, 67° F.; highest shade temperature, 81° F.

October 23rd.—No natives to act as packers. A few Erei natives came in, some of whom promised to start with us in the morning. They left the camp at dusk and took their way towards Ebe, and we much feared we should see them no more. I obtained some good photographs, which were of great ethnological interest.

Lowest night temperature, 69° F.

October 24th.—Packed up the least possible baggage to suffice for a week to 10 days, ready for the coming of our porters. As no one put in an appearance by 8 o'clock, I sent Gleeson and Cæsar to their villages to find out the "why" of their delay. He returned at 1, bringing nine natives with him, to whom we showed the trade we were disposed to give them to take us to the mountain. They were very gratified, and promised to start next morning without fail. They had been all too busy in their gardens—it being the yam-planting season—to come before, they said. We sent for five or six more, but only two came. They slept in the camp all night.

Lowest night temperature, 67° F.; highest shade reading, 99° F.

October 25th.—Considering the very friendly bearing of the natives towards us, evinced by their bringing us at first large quantities

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of yams, by the presence of their women, who came unasked by us, and carried firewood for us, I did not entertain the slightest fear of any hostility towards us, or danger of an attack on the camp. I therefore determined to leave Jack and Cæsar in charge of the main camp, taking with me Gleeson and Belford. I cautioned the boys as to their conduct towards the natives, and as to their watchfulness. We started at 6.45 with the eleven carriers. The road from the commencement followed country of the most broken description, trying to the endurance both of ourselves and of our carriers. We reached the village of Urava about noon, and had to halt for the night, as our porters declined to proceed further, and as it threatened rain also, which fell very heavily after we had pitched camp. [Camp X.] The people of the village were not very numerous, but a considerable number collected from surrounding villages. They possessed extensive gardens on the steep slopes of the hills. In sight we had the villages of Bereka, Aipekara, Origanumu, Yavebenumu, most of them separated from us by deep valleys, yet they were all informed of the arrival of "three foreigners" before we had been 10 minutes in their midst. During the evening we felt not quite happy by seeing one and another of our carriers slipping away, but we could not discover if they intended to return or not.

October 26th.—The night passed without incident, but on awaking all our porters had deserted except two. However, we persuaded the Urava villagers to take their places. Before starting I was able to secure a very accurate set of observations, as the site of the village commanded a good view of the surrounding country. Our course lay now almost due north, but not in a direct line, for we had to make the circuit of a deep valley on the face of the mountains, which enclosed it at an altitude varying from 3,000 to 4,000 feet, before descending into the valley of a large river which we take to be the Brown River. Our carriers had promised to take us beyond this great river to friends of theirs who had large villages and plenty of yams. At the crossing of the river, which, though broad and deep, was not so large as I had expected to find it, our porters tried to refuse duty, and only after much persuasion were prevailed on to take us forward to their friends. They played us rather false, however, by taking us into a thicket of lawyer palms and walking us round for a couple of hours. When, persuaded of their falseness, we showed them that we might be compelled to use force, they brought us out into the open by some deserted huts, and refused to go further. It meant disaster to our enterprise, and probably to ourselves personally, to be left there, and it was absolutely essential that we should be brought to one of their friend's villages. Without threatening them in any way, I handled my Winchester in a significant way, and signed to them to move on. They obeyed at once. They now led us by a good and broad native path, which we trusted led to a village not far off. At sundown, however, none was in sight, and it became necessary to camp. [Camp XI.]

We took means to prevent the escape of any of our carriers during the night.

October 27th.—At early dawn gave one of the carriers a small quantity of salt, and sent him forward to his friends with it as a gift from the lohiabada behind, and to ask them to come and meet me. We started at 6.40, ascending still the steep mountain, whose ascent we began the night before. It was not till between 7 and 8 o'clock that we met the natives of the villages ahead. Among them was Kaimadava, the chief of Bogura, and his followers. They were at first a little scared at their first sight of white men; but their confidence was soon gained by small gifts of tobacco, which they appreciated, though they themselves cultivate it in large quantity. The excellence of their gardens indeed astonished us, so exceedingly well kept in order were they. Sugar-cane, papaw (brought by way of Sogere to them), bananas, tobacco, yams, and taro grew luxuriantly in a dark chocolate soil. The women all wear the *rame* as seen at the coast; but the men had round their waists a very short grass *rame*, below which, behind, a piece of ornamented bark cloth was suspended, while in front the married men wore one or more netted bags, being thus entirely clothed, in great contrast to the Ebe people, who had the simple string of the Motu, Sogere, or Kerâri tribes. Further on we met more natives, who accompanied us along the crest of the range which we had reached—an elevation of 3,500 feet. Between 10 and 11 we arrived at their village of Uburukara, where we camped in the centre of the village—if such a collection of miserable dwellings can be so designated. [Camp XII.] After our experience of their gardens, we were much surprised at the meanness of their abodes. We did not find the people very much inclined to sell us yams. They appeared somewhat distrustful of us—or rather uneasy at our presence, yet they were quite friendly otherwise. We took the precaution, however, of bargaining with our Urava friends to remain in the village and await our return from the mountain. They agreed to this, and we turned in with high hopes that in a couple of days we might reach the watershed of the country, even if we did not get to the summit of Mount Owen Stanley. I was surprised to see here many of the natives wearing beads of a peculiar kind which I had distributed more than a year before at Sogere.

Lowest temperature, 65° F.

October 28th.—The greater part of the night was wet, and a thick drizzle continued considerably into the forenoon. We displayed the trade we were willing to give to these people to take us to the "great mountain." They were much impressed with the riches shown to them, but did not seem very eager to offer their services. When the rain ceased no one offered to carry, but by gentle persuasion and laying the burdens kindly on them, I got sufficient bearers, and then quite a crowd of followers, whose number was augmented in each little hamlet we passed through. The road was a very rough one, continually ascending only to descend again; at length a high bare eminence 3,000 feet in

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height was reached, facing the Southern spur of Owen Stanley, and named Ginianumu. There was now nothing between us and the summit except the climb of this spur, which rose by a gradual ascent to the top. On our right, and not connected with Mount Owen Stanley, stood a rugged peak, called by them "Venudi." To this they pointed as the hill they were guiding us to. We shook our heads and pointed to the peak. Their countenances fell heavily at once. They tried in every way to make us change our determination. Thinking we did not comprehend them perfectly, they despatched a runner back for our Urava friends to act as interpreters. They came and interpreted, but we remained steadfast to go to the peak and nowhere else. Seeing this, our carriers one by one began to disappear till only a few were left. Along with our Urava friends we accordingly had to pitch camp and wait for a change in their resolution, for without their aid it would be impossible to advance. [Camp XIII.] To leave only one man in charge of the baggage here, while two of us ascended the peak, would, in the doubtful bearing of the people towards us, be too great a responsibility, and to have ascended alone would have been foolhardy. During the afternoon an unfortunate circumstance made all further hope of help from the natives most improbable. Belford, thinking that he had caught the chief of our Urava carriers instigating treachery to the Uburukara and Ginianumu natives, struck him. I was myself engaged at the moment in a hypsometrical observation, and cannot speak to what actually took place, till my attention was attracted by the sudden departure of every native near us. The insulted man I saw going off in high dudgeon. I instantly rushed out of the tent to make inquiries, but too late to bring back the natives. Belford declared that the stroke was only a tap. However light or severe it was, it was taken at the moment as an insult by the natives: not only was such an act most injudicious, but a piece of unwarrantable assumption of authority on Belford's part. Every village within sight was, as if by magic, evacuated by the women and children, and though I sent Gleeson to try to get hold of some of the men to make friends again not a soul could be seen anywhere. We had to spend a very anxious night under double watch, in the expectation of an attack. Our camp was luckily in a good place for defensive purposes, and we had a good moon.

Lowest night temperature, 65° F.

October 29th.—The night passed without any surprise. About half-past 8 o'clock we observed several heads appearing and disappearing amid the scrub surrounding us, watching our operations. We called out to them the word for "Friend" and "Peace," but Gleeson nearly spoiled all by hastening forward holding out a stick of tobacco in one hand and his revolver in the other. I promptly called him back, fortunately before he was observed. By going a little way into the scrub I met with some of the chiefs, whose confidence I regained by gifts of tobacco. Quite a crowd then congregated in our camp when it was perceived that we had no ill intentions towards them. They came, however, bursting

with the story of the terrible things that would happen to us if we ascended the peak. We laughed to scorn their tale and began packing up, and as we laid out the swags on the ground, one by one our neighbours disappeared. They thought we were bent on our purpose. We saw it was no use to persist longer, and so gave them to understand that we were going back. Even then they were uncertain of us, and it was only with the utmost difficulty that we obtained a few of the older men to give us a hand to the nearest village, where we still hoped to meet our Urava friends. Each of us had to carry a swag. We found on reaching Uburukara that all of the Urava natives had left except three. The Uburukara natives (who had left the Ginianumu people to deal with us alone), however, volunteered to pack us forward, and we proceeded, accompanied by a great crowd, all evidently on the most friendly terms—even the chief who had been insulted the day before, and who had waited for us as he had promised. Belford and he made up any misunderstanding that existed, in the most friendly way. In the afternoon we reached the Brown River, and camped for the night beside some deserted huts. [Camp XIV.]

Lowest night temperature, 61° F.

October 30*th*.—Packed up early for a long and difficult march before us. When all was ready, we found ourselves, somewhat to our surprise, deserted by all the Uburukara people, though they had promised to come with us as far as Bereka. We had only three carriers left—the Urava people—to pack the loads of eleven. The Uburukara men we soon found were in hiding in the surrounding bush, with the intention of looting what we must certainly, they thought, leave. By each of us taking a pack and dividing the remainder into three swags, which were to our regret excessively heavy loads for the poor fellows, who really made very little objection, we set out. As we crossed the Brown River, we lightened their loads as much as possible by throwing into the river our surplus flour, salt, bread, and tinned meat, and whatever we could do without. We reached Bereka late in the afternoon, and were received in a most friendly manner, the people emulating each other in showing us hospitality. [Camp XV.]

Lowest night temperature of previous night, 66° F.

October 31*st*.—From 6 a.m. till 10, at the village of Origanumu on a high eminence at some distance from our camp, engaged in taking bearings. Started at 10.30, and had not much difficulty in obtaining carriers to take us to our main camp this day's journey distant. About half-past 11, as we were descending the mountain from Origanumu—whence the village of Ebe could be seen pitched on the crest of a mountain exactly opposite—we were surprised to see what appeared to be one of our tents pitched in the centre of the Ebe village some miles from the main camp. My telescope made it out perfectly. It was so well pitched that we at first believed that Jack and Cæsar had for some reason shifted the camp. I ordered a rifle shot to be fired to attract their attention. Among the natives I detected two people with clothes, whom I set down to be the South Sea Islanders. After a moment or so

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however, the fly was struck and removed from sight. I then felt certain some disaster had happened to the camp, but as our road lay through the village of Ebe, we should find out on arrival there what had happened. Gleeson, I regret to say, rather broke down here, and exhibited to the natives the disquietude he felt, which they at once perceived and were struck with fear. Belford supported me in putting the best face on the matter and looking happy—because it was "lohiabada's men," we said, waiting there for him. It was evident that no news had reached Bereka of the disaster, or we should not have been able to get porters in the morning. This is rather remarkable, for the two villages are separated only by the gorge of the Goldie River. Alarm, however, had taken possession of our party, and it required all our powers of suasion—not altogether of the most lenient kind—to get them to move forward, especially after we had crossed the river and began to ascend the steep climb to Ebe. When about half-way up, the Ebe people shouted our carriers that they would not allow them to come to their village. (The Bereka people are not always on friendly terms with the Ebe people, and it was difficult to judge whether this injunction was made to prevent them or us getting to Ebe—the latter, I believe.) I wished to force them, but notwithstanding my assurance of protection to them, it was impossible to persuade them. The Ebe people shouted that if we returned to the river they would meet us there. Accordingly we descended into the gorge, but they did not keep their word. A few of them discovered their nearness to us by speaking to our party, but we saw no one. Our Bereka people had heard enough, however, to frighten them so thoroughly, that, throwing down the baggage, they tried to clear. It was a case of emergency requiring quick and decided action. We therefore rounded up the runaways at the point of our rifles and compelled them to start with our impedimenta down the bed of the river. Our own safety depended on their not leaving us, we felt, and we were soon assured of this, for we had not gone far before we saw ourselves followed by a large number of armed Ebe people, whose warhorns we could hear sounding all round. It is impossible to describe the march down a boulder-studded river, in many places too deep to ford for a non-swimmer. I was saved twice from drowning by the men we were driving, who were by no means unfriendly though terrified as to what their fate would be when weca me to know the news they had already had from their—I believe—friends of Ebe. Now by ledges of crags, now on narrow logs, and now up the almost perpendicular face of the gorge and down again hand over hand by climbing plants, we forced our carriers and were pursued by a large armed crowd—who were kept at bay simply by the show of a Winchester every now and then turned on them—for five long hours. Some of our saddlebags we found by the river-side; we compelled our carriers to bring them along also. As we approached our camp we cooeyed, but got no response; and we were not very surprised on arriving to find it deserted and everything gone, only a few tins of meat

which they could not open being left. Everything they left behind was destroyed and cut to pieces. We paid off our carriers with the few knives, red cloth, and beads we had brought in with ourselves. I was very sorry that we could not give all we had promised them—for some had carried for us from Urava to Uburukara and back (one of them being the insulted man); but we gave them what we had, and parted with signs of friendship. It was evident that they were also surprised, for I believe they expected to be killed when we discovered the state of the camp. They all parted with us with the salute of friendship, and even gave us the three remaining yams they had; a very welcome addition to our stores, which consisted of about a cupful of rice, and a few tins of meat left by the robbers, to last us for the next three days. Towards sundown the armed natives, who had posted themselves on an eminence overlooking the camp to watch our movements, cleared off. I sent Gleeson to fetch in the horses, which we could see on their feeding-ground. Only seven were found, and on examining the remains of the pack-saddles we found that only seven were left. The missing saddle belonged to the missing horse. We concluded, therefore, as we could find no traces of a massacre, that the islanders had escaped with the missing horse to the coast.

We kept a double watch all night.

Lowest temperature of preceding night, 66° F.

November 1st.—Unmolested during the night. Breakfast at dawn, after which Gleeson and Belford made up three saddles out of the wreck of the seven. Packed the horses, and started at 8 a.m., travelling with all celerity, and very watchful against a surprise. We were, however, unmolested. We passed through the camp where we *cached* the provisions on Friday, the 4th. We had failed to discover any tracks of Jack or Cæsar, and none of a horse having gone down to the coast. The provisions, whose place of concealment was known to Jack, were untouched; but by a recent fire, where a few nuts had evidently been cooked, we observed a fresh footprint, larger than a native's. We suspected this to be Jack's. We took from the store a portion of the provisions, leaving, in case one or both the South Sea Islanders were yet behind and might escape, sufficient to supply their wants into port.

We reached Port Moresby, without incident, on Saturday, the 5th November, at sundown, and to our great relief found that both the South Sea Islanders had escaped, having arrived in port the night before us. They had reported our precarious position. Mr. Lawes. Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Goldie at once set about organising a party to proceed to our aid on the following Monday. Though our arrival made their effort unnecessary, our grateful thanks are due to them for the quick aid they were organising.

A very complete set of observations have been obtained by me, and I hope as soon as I have got fresh instruments to supply your Excellency with a map as accurate as it is possible for a flying survey to produce. I regret to have to report among other things

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the loss, in the looting of the camp, of one of my angle-books of the previous year, in which were the observations which would have enabled me to add on more than will be possible of the triangulation of the Sogere region to the work now done. Much of that triangulation, however, is contained in the remaining angle-books, which I luckily had with me. My loss in instruments consists of:—Sextant, sextant stand, station pointer, half-chronometer watch, mathematical instruments (case of), valued at £47 14*s*. I have lost, besides, all the nautical works necessary for calculating observations; clothes; besides many other things. The only Government instruments I had with me were a large circular brass protractor and a couple of small ivory protractors. These shared the fate of the camp furniture. Gleeson's loss is:—One pack-saddle, one fly 10 feet by 12 feet, one mosquito net, one American duck hammock, one compass, one pair of blue cloth trousers, two woollen crimean shirts, one flannel shirt, one box of revolver cartridges, 1-oz bottle of quinine; valued at £6 19*s*. The dynamite cartridges and fuses used in procuring the fish, which supplied the camp so well and so long, belonged to him, and he makes claim on this head for £1, which I think fairly due to him.

Belford did not supply me with a list of his losses before I left Port Moresby. He has not lost so much as Gleeson.

No indications of gold, or indeed of any mineral, were discovered. The country passed over cannot be surpassed for ruggedness and difficulty of approach.

I ought to add that though Belford was guilty of an act of thoughtlessness in our camp at Ginianumu, his behaviour in the trying march from the Brown River to our main camp was firm, cool, and collected, and deserves warm commendation.

Gleeson acted splendidly in charge of the horses over the very rough country from Port Moresby to the main camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY O. FORBES.

To His Excellency
H.M. Special Commissioner for
British New Guinea.

APPENDIX G.

REPORT from Mr. Deputy Commissioner ROMILLY.

On board the "Hygeia,"
October 26, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information some account of the present condition of the natives of South-eastern New Guinea, and also of the present resources and future prospects of the white men trading in that portion of the Protectorate.

1. My experience of the natives of the South-eastern Islands and Milne Bay extends back as far as 1881, in which year I first visited those coasts. Since that time it requires no very keen observer to see that a considerable change has taken place in their demeanour towards the whites with whom they are brought in contact. In some parts they are openly hostile and threatening, in others they affect friendship towards the whites, but are equally hostile in their minds. In a few islands only can they be said to be really friendly. In the islands most visited by the shelling boats, they neither interfere with nor assist the shellers, but hold little or no communication with them. In former years, when the visit of a white man to their islands was a rare event, they crowded off in their canoes and displayed the greatest eagerness in trading and anxiety to see him. Now this is not so.

It is hardly necessary to recapitulate the causes which have given rise to this state of things. They have several times, both in public and private documents, been dwelt on at length.

The sense of injury which some of them still feel at the deaths of their relations in Queensland will, in course of time, disappear. It is too much to expect, taking into consideration their peculiar superstitions, that it should wholly disappear in less than a generation. Their present attitude is in great part owing to the fact that they feel, in accordance with their customs, that the account opened by the whites has to be closed by them, and the balance still remains to be struck.

2. As every action of any importance in the life of a native is suggested and controlled by superstitious belief, it may be of interest to describe shortly some of the more noticeable of them. It is supposed that every man and woman of a tribe has a spirit in constant attendance on them, a spirit which during his life is part of himself, and which after his death is all that is left of him. After his death his human appetites enter into it, it becomes susceptible to hunger and thirst, the desire to till the soil and go out hunting, and, most important of all, the love of home seems to become much developed. The spirit is carefully attended to by the dead man's relations; food and water are provided for it, and are set apart with his hunting and fighting spears in some locality which in life he was in the habit of frequenting. This is a most sacred obligation on his relatives. But if he should happen to be killed

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by a foreign tribe, as is generally the case, or if he should die in a foreign land, his spirit cannot return to its original haunts till steps have been taken which are satisfactory to the surviving relatives. In native warfare it is necessary to obtain a head of any member of the tribe by whom he was killed. This done, the spirit can return. There is no statute of limitations. It is as necessary twenty years after his death as it would be twenty hours.

If instead of having the natives of another tribe to deal with, it becomes a matter between natives and white men, it is not held to be absolutely necessary that a white man's head must be procured before the unjust spirit can be laid. Heavy payment in trade goods will answer the same purpose. It was for this reason when I was entrusted with the charge of returning some 400 New Guinea natives from Queensland to their proper homes, that I strongly urged the Queensland Government to make ample provision for the men who had died during their term of service.

About 100 bundles of trade goods were distributed to the relations of men who had died in Queensland. Unfortunately, owing to the extreme inaccuracy of the lists supplied me by the Queensland Immigration Office, and for which their Government agents were responsible, it was found that in some cases it was omitted to make compensation where it was due. During the last two years two of the murders committed in the south-east were probably caused by this omission. As there was no prospect of obtaining compensation, the natives had to take the first white heads they could procure.

3. There are other forms of superstition which affect the intercourse between natives and whites. The spirit I have alluded to, and which by a stretch of imagination might be called the soul, is by no means the only one by which their lives are regulated. Indeed in the case of the soul that rarely becomes troublesome till its owner is defunct. They are much troubled with dreams, and in their dreams they are told to work for one man and not for another, to bring him good measure or bad measure, to cheat him or not, as the case may be, or very frequently to refuse to trade with him at all. They are inveterate thieves, but they experience no sense of shame when they are discovered. They frequently say that they can feel an invisible power which compels them to put out their hand and close it upon some article which they covet, but which does not belong to them. Naturally the white trader resents the action of this invisible power, and many serious trading disputes leading to serious consequences have been the result.

As a rule it is only an inexperienced trader who has his things stolen. An experienced one knows that he cannot resent petty thefts very severely, as his good relations and means of trading with natives depends on his keeping his temper with them and looking upon theft as a matter of course if he affords them any opportunities of exercising their talents in that direction.

4. Many powerful spirits are supposed to constantly surround the white man. If sickness should break out in a district, should some house be burnt by accident, should a trading canoe be

swamped, if any white man is in the district his spirits or devils will probably be acredited with such misfortunes. If he has been on good terms with the natives they will very likely, by the command of their sorcerers, demand compensation from him. If he is a wise man he will pay it, as the only alternative for him in the event of a severe calamity would be to leave the district and settle somewhere else. They admit that the white man's fighting spirits are stronger than their own, and in consequence of this belief they will follow a white man where in other circumstances they would not go by themselves. In their belief the mere sound of a gun is sufficient to frighten away the spirits by whom their enemies are protected.

5. I have said enough on the subject of superstition to show that, unless large allowances are made for them by white men trading in their midst, friendly relations are not likely to continue for long unimpaired.

Unfortunately the importance of the subject has not been generally recognised, and many a man whose last wish, for his own sake, has been to offend their prejudices, has done so unconsciously and with serious results to himself. No allowance is made for him by the natives on the score of ignorance. They assume that he is as conversant with their customs and superstitions as they themselves are. Their reasoning faculties are not sufficiently acute to perceive that it is impossible he should be so till he has spent some years of his life amongst them, nor do they possess any abstract idea of justice as we understand the word. The "*Lex Talionis*" they understand, but even in enforcing this law they would prefer two eyes for an eye and two teeth for a tooth.

6. It is impossible, while on the subject of the causes which promote quarrels and bloodshed between the two races, to omit the mention of one fruitful cause of disorder and murder. I allude to the intercourse between white men and native women. The question has frequently been discussed before, but I think the tendency in such discussions has generally been to place the white man on too low a pedestal and the native woman on too high a one. To explain my meaning clearly, it will be necessary to say a few words about the position women hold in their tribe, and the estimation in which they are held.

We are apt to fall into the same mistake in our estimate of them as the natives do in their estimate of us. The intimacy of married life, as we understand it, among them does not exist at all. A woman after marriage is as much her husband's property as his spear or canoe is, she is his slave, and has to bear his ill-tempers and castigations without complaint. She bears him one child every three or four years, and her services are entirely at his disposal whether he requires them for himself, or whether he requires them from a feeling of hospitality or profit, for another. She would have no voice in the matter. Virtue with her is generally compulsory, as any deviation from its path would bring her husband's anger upon her.

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In intercourse with white men it is a matter of daily occurrence that husbands prostitute their wives for their own gain, nor, if the price previously arranged be paid, would any feeling of dishonour or dissatisfaction remain behind. Before marriage the woman is her own mistress. The immorality of her life begins when she is a little child playing about the native villages with other children. When she is grown up she would not of her own accord solicit white men, as she would be aware that her father or brother would deprive her of any profits which might accrue from such a proceeding. It is also probable that she prefers her own people. But she is frequently ordered by her relations to accept the solicitations of white men, and her future value, matrimonially, is not damaged. It is when white men desire to attain their ends without the intervention of the relation, that claims for compensation are made. If they are refused the quarrel not infrequently ends by the murder of the offending white man.

7. During the last year the trade of the south-east has considerably increased. As the quarterly returns will show, it is at that end of the Protectorate where the greatest activity exists.

Abundance of natural wealth exists, both on the land and under the water. We can only conjecture at present what the resources of such islands as Johannet, Sudest, St. Aignans, and Rossel are. That an abundance of gums and spices exist there is known. It is more than probable that the fine descriptions of india-rubber will shortly be found, while there are several barks, "Massoi" and others, which have a market in Java, if not in Europe.

The shelling industry has made great strides in the face of difficulties which have not to be encountered in Torres Straits. The shells are of the best quality, and the beds are numerous; but the great depth of water in which the divers have to work has rather damped their original enthusiasm.

It has been found necessary to dive in such great depths as 22 fathoms. At that depth and up to 24 fathoms, the shell is plentiful and good. But very few divers can be found whose constitutions can stand so great a pressure as this, and the work is very severe for the tenders and the hands at the pump.

Several divers engaged in this work have lost the use of their lower limbs, and, I fear, that unless shell can be found in water not deeper than 18 fathoms, that New Guinea will become an unpopular country for divers to work in. I believe, however, that extensive beds of shell will be found at practicable depths.

Of the bêche-de-mer and copra industries I have but little to say. Bêche-de-mer fishing in New Guinea has never proved a very profitable occupation. The amount of labour required is large, and fresh reefs have constantly to be hunted for, as the supply of fish on any one reef is soon exhausted.

In the small, ill-found vessels employed in the trade the chance of damage to the cargo is very great, and though the marketable article fetches a high price, a bare margin of profit to the fisherman is all that can be expected.

The copra trade was at no time a very extensive one in New Guinea. It is a trade which, as the country becomes more settled, and wages of necessity rise, will cease to yield the small margin of profit it now does, and will probably be abandoned.

The question of a site for a house for a resident officer in the South-east End is a somewat important one. A healthy situation is of the utmost importance, and Dinner Island, which has hitherto been the headquarters of that part of New Guinea, is not healthy.

It is possible that in a few years' time the swamp which exists in its centre may be successfully drained or filled in, but at the present time a considerable amount of malarial fever exists there. It would be necessary, in my opinion, for the resident officer to reside in the vicinity of China Straits, and this being so, the only alternative spot in which to build a house is the small island of Quato, which has already been purchased on behalf of the Protectorate. It is healthy, and good anchorage can be obtained there for ships during both monsoons.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH HASTINGS ROMILLY,
Deputy Commissioner.

His Excellency the Special Commissioner,
&c. &c. &c.

APPENDIX H.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. Deputy Commissioner ROMILLY, addressed to His Excellency the SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

Sorcery and Superstitions.

It is not too much to say that nearly every action of a Papuan's life is regulated to some extent by superstition. He believes in ghosts, he believes in witchcraft, and he believes, until events occur to shake his belief, in the sorcerers who profess to be able to raise the one and control the other.

The number of spirits he believes in is quite enormous, as not only has his own tribe one complete lot to be propitiated or cursed as occasion may demand, but every other tribe has also a duplicate set; and the white man, of course, has a new and awful species of which he professes to know nothing. In dealings with these people promises are broken and carefully laid plans are upset in a moment by any slight *contretemps* which may occur, as it is described by them, to the malignant influence of the white man's spirit. Much as they curse the white man's devil at times, I imagine I have cursed theirs just as often, and with equal good will.

The white man is held to be responsible for any accident which may happen to a native while in his service, and the unfortunate stranger has to pay heavily, or trouble is the result.

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It happened to me not long ago to be in want of several men who spoke the language, and knew the people, of Moresby Island. The Moresby Island people had murdered six Chinamen, and it was necessary to give them the chance of coming to terms before proceeding to extremities.

At my request a Chief in Hayter Island, called Peter by us, and six of his men consented to go. Three times they landed and held communications with the natives. On the first two occasions they were quite successful in their negotiations, as they brought me off some of the Chinamen's skulls and rifles which had been seized. The third time, as bad luck would have it, one of our troublesome spirits, so Peter assured me, must come and interfere, with the result that one man was speared in the side and leg, and his friends got him off to the ship with difficulty. To make matters worse, a few days afterwards I landed Peter at his own village, and there he found that during his absence one of his daughters had died and that his wife was ill. This also was laid to my charge, I suppose on the assumption that I should have kept this white man's devil in better order; and Peter had to be heavily paid before he would be appeased; if I had not done so it might have had the effect of making a previously friendly people hostile to us. Of course, all the relations of the wounded man insisted on payment, as that misfortune was also laid at my door. This will serve to give a slight idea of the difficulties to be contended with when superstition is thrown into the scale. A curious instance came under my notice not long ago of the sacred importance attached to the heavy grass petticoat worn by the women. A party of ten Slade Island men started on a trading voyage to a village in Milne Bay on the main land of New Guinea. They had ofter traded there before and had anticipated no danger. They had started at an inauspicious time, however, as an old woman the night previous to their departure had dreamed a dream and warned them against going. On their arrival in Milne Bay they were received in an apparently friendly manner, but at a given signal the whole party, with the exception of one young man and a little boy, were treacherously tomahawked.

The young man escaped and was subsequently taken to his home by me after he had been undergoing for a week the process of fattening for eating. The boy, however, was to have been killed with the others in spite of the prayers and tears of the women. When they found that those were of no avail they took off their petticoats and flung them over the boy's body, and there was not a man there who would have dared to so much as touch him while under this protection. As soon as the first excitement of the men had worn off and the women dared to resume their clothes, it was decided that the boy should be adopted by the tribe.

When I arrived some weeks after this occurrence at Slade Island I found the men there were very anxious to revenge the murder of their friends, but they could not start on a fighting expedition until their spirits were favourable. As the tribe they had to fight was a very strong one, they had to get allies from South

Cape and other places, and those people would also have to wait for the same purpose, so that it seemed probable that a considerable amount of time would be wasted till three or four distinct lots of spirits could be induced to make up their minds at the same time. It is at those times that the sorcerers come to the fore. Their opinions would be taken by their tribes as to what was the proper time to start, and professional rivalry would certainly prevent a Slade Island and a South Cape sorcerer from agreeing too quickly. Eventually, no doubt, the matter would be settled between them; but, of course, if the expedition met with disaster or defeat each individual sorcerer would lay the blame on his colleagues and would assign quite satisfactory reasons for so doing. Though I am now confining myself to the islands of New Guinea, I do not know that the black art here is very different to that practised in the Solomons and elsewhere. Without repetition, however, there are a few traits in their character which I have not mentioned before which may prove of interest.

I find a passage in one of my journals which I transcribe in full as it not only describes a certain sorcerer of my acquaintance, but also gives an idea of what our daily life was at that time:—

"*April 29th*, 1885.—To-day Chalmers has gone off in the 'Hannah More' to Aroma.

"I have given up the idea of East Cape as my foot is still too bad to make it safe for me to move. It is two months since it began now, and it seems to get worse every day. Goldie is very ill and most of our small population are down with fever. Minister in the 'Dulama' has also gone to-day, and the 'Manu-Manu' has not come in yet. They cannot have taken all this time to buy yams. Chalmers thinks some accident must have befallen the 'Ellangowan' as she is a month overdue now. The 'Diamond' is also a month overdue, and the "Wolverine" six weeks. There are many things which ought to be attended to, but no means of doing it. The old sorcerer of the Roitapu tribes, at Chalmers's request, dug up the other day what has always been looked on as one of the most powerful of their spirits. It consisted of a fragment of pottery and two round small stones from the river, apparently iron lodes. He had to be paid very heavily and did it with great reluctance.

"The Motu people were disgusted when they saw it, and said 'is this what we have been paying our best arm shells and tomahawks for, for so many years?' It produced rain and abundant crops, and had had very many presents made it for many generations. In the morning of the next day the old sorcerer came to Chalmers, the spirit had appeared to him while he slept, and was very angry, and put two more stones on his chest, and told him to bury them again. Mr. Chalmers upon this took those two stones, too, and told him if the spirit appeared again that he was to say that he wished to have nothing more to do with him. The old man said that some great piece of bad luck was sure to happen to his tribe, and was not at all pleased. He then tried to get some

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pity, but they were all glad to see so great a tax as this had been to them removed. Mr. Chalmers had not expected to find anything at all there in the ground."

It was probably the case in this instance that the sorcerer himself did not know what was buried in the ground, and as this was a very old spirit and had become a sort of heirloom in his family, he probably believed in it as much as any of his dupes.

The tribe whose head-quarters are at Port Moresby have come so much under the influence of the London Missionary Society that they are discarding to a great extent their superstitions. In any other tribe so great a sacrilege as digging up a spirit all powerful for producing rain and crops would not have been permitted. But even these people, the most civilised in New Guinea, and most of them professed Christians, in times of great excitement revert to their old habits. This was shown during the autumn of 1886. At that time a severe epidemic raged along the south coast. The people were dying in hundreds of pneumonia, and were beside themselves with fear. The usual remedies for driving away spirits at night were tried, remedies which had been in disuse for years—torches were burnt, horns were blown, and the hereditary sorcerers sat up all night cursing, but still the people died. Then it was decided that the land spirits were working this harm, and the whole population moved their canoes out in the bay and slept in them at night, but still the people died. Then they returned to their village and fired arrows at any moving object they saw, so that many native dogs came to an untimely end.

Mr. Lawes, junior, who had to pass through the village every night at about 10 p.m., was begged by the natives always to wear white clothes so that they might know it was not a spirit.

If he had failed to do this he might possibly have been shot by mistake. It will be observed by this that the native ghost is black.

In course of time the epidemic wore itself out, but while it lasted the civilised Motuans were as superstitious as any of their neighbours could have been. It sometimes happens that a sorcerer makes use of his power for his own evil ends, and then the sacred character of his office proves to be insufficient to protect him. This is not often the case, as he is usually a rich man and can afford any extravagance in moderation. A case, however, came under my notice at a place called Keite on the south coast.

The extract from my journal is as follows:—"Last night a "child in the village died, and a horrid howling and drumming "was kept up in consequence for the benefit of her departed "spirit. I heard yesterday that a sorcerer was killed for com- "mitting adultery. It seems that he used his power for this "purpose. He said he could make all the women barren, and "kill them too, if he chose; and so the outraged husbands saw if "they could kill him, and succeeded." As I have said before, these cases are uncommon, as the sorcerer with all his imposture

generally recognises in his own mind the fact that he is an imposition, and in his prophecies he takes very good care that there should be a loophole for escape in the not improbable event of his predictions not being fulfilled. One curious feature in connexion with them is the sale and issue of charms. These charms are not modelled on any fixed principle, but depend entirely on the fancy of their designer. They are considered sufficiently valuable to be a source of great profit to the maker, but I have never found any difficulty in buying them from natives. I suppose they are easily renewed. The natives do not of their own accord show them to you or offer them for sale, but nearly every man carries a netted bag on his shoulder, and if you take the trouble to examine this after extracting a heterogeneous mixture of old match boxes, clay pipes, odds and ends of all sorts, you will find the charms at the bottom. Sometimes there will be a dozen of them, from the bit of bark w th a few threads of sinnet round it, a cheap charm I should think, to the beautifully worked little crab claws arranged in every fantastic design, no two are found precisely similar. Some are intended to ensure safety against shipwreck; others against spear wounds; others, again, provide a complete immunity against accidents of all sorts; in fact, there is no end to them. The sorcerer might almost occupy the position held by the more civilised insurance company, and with even greater profits, for while he issues policies of assurance in the form of crabs' claws and pieces of bark, he incurs no responsibility except in possible loss of credit and the chance of some angry creditor taking the law into his own hands. One attribute he possesses must not be lost sight of, he is doctor and surgeon as well as sorcerer. His surgery is of an elementary character. It is always supposed that if a man is suffering pain from any cause whatever that it can be let out by making a long incision over the abdomen. It is obvious that this cannot be a very safe remedy, as the incision is not infrequently sufficiently deep to cause death in itself. Some time ago I saw a woman, the wife of a native teacher, who had been badly speared during an attack on the teacher's boat. She was the only survivor of the party. Although her wounds were severe, by far the worst one she had had been inflicted by the hand of a native doctor in the form of a long and much too deep cut over the abdomen. The superstitions of the Papuans can hardly be said to resemble any form of religion. As far as I know all their spirits are malignant ones, which have to be overcome either by hand, cursing, or propitiatory offerings.

It seems entirely foreign to the native mind ever to have conceived an idea of a beneficent spirit. In the characters they ascribe to their spirits they unconsciously reproduce their own natures: he employs the same treacherous artifices, and has to be overcome by the same cunning which they would employ with their earthly neighbours: in fact, they are illogical to a degree in speaking of them. They believe them to be intangible and supernatural, and yet assert that they can kill them with arrows or spears. They are intensely frightened of them, and yet do not

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hesitate to employ language to them which no spirit with any self-respect could tolerate for a moment.

Fire is the great purifier and the terror of spirits, but while they admit that they can drive them away with bonfires and torches, they do not seem to have any spirit of the fire, possibly because he would almost assume a beneficent appearance in ridding them of the others. Hereditary spirits which afflict whole tribes from generation to generation seem to be not uncommon, but as a general rule each man creates his own for himself, and there is no law restricting the number an individual is allowed to have.

Conscience, I think, troubles them but little, and a man is seldom haunted by the recollection of former misdeeds.

The fact of a man having some near relation's skull exposed in a conspicuous position opposite his front door would cause him no pangs of regret, nor is it likely that his defunct relative's shade would ever reproach him with having annexed his head in a somewhat arbitrary manner.

Conscience with them implies no loss of self-respect, but merely the fear of retaliation and personal danger to themselves. One way in which sorcerers occasionally come to grief is not very uncommon. This is when a tribe possesses two rival sorcerers.

They will try every artifice to secure each to himself the greatest custom, and will undersell each other to attain this object. At length one of them oversteps the limits of prudence and prepares some extra potent charm—a love charm, probably, which recoils upon his own head as he probably, at some not very remote period, has to deal in an unpleasant manner with injured husbands or fathers. There must be some form of understanding, however, between rival sorcerers or they could never preserve the secrets of their trade, and those once gone, so would their occupation be likewise.

They have their familiars or spirits, who belong to themselves alone. On more than one occasion I have heard the sorcerer speaking to his familiar in a little squeaky voice. The familiar, and indeed all spirits, when they speak, appear to imitate the squeaky voice of some small animal and are answered in the same manner. During voyages the canoes will stop at certain localities, and a great drumming, burning of torches, and cursing will go on, to either frighten or drive away the local spirit. As a general rule, before the canoe resumes its journey some member of the crew will assert that he saw the hostile spirit fly away in the form of a flying fox, or some other nightly animal.

Even amongst members of the same tribe a man may compass the death of another by paying the sorcerer to slowly kill him. The methods employed are much the same, I fancy, in every savage community in the world. If the cuttings of the victim's hair can be obtained and are buried, he will surely die; but every man takes care to destroy for himself such dangerous things as these.

In default of this, the refuse of his meals buried in the ground will have a most unwholesome effect; some kind friends will be

sure to tell him of the secret influence at work against him, and unless he buys off the sorcerer, or takes the law into his own hands, a thing he hardly dare do in his own tribe, he will in course of time be so worked on by his feelings that he will undoubtedly die.

The sorcerer seems to be quite impartial as to who it is upon whom he brings his power to bear. He requires payment, but having received this, he goes to work quite as cheerfully on one of his own tribe as upon a stranger. With him it is purely a matter of business. When the rest of his tribe are fighting he is very often excused from taking part in the fray, as it is considered he is of more use at home than he would be in the field. Besides, by the time his reputation is secure he is usually a very old man, and would not be of much use in active warfare. They combine a certain amount of astronomy with their other pursuits, but they are not nearly such keen observers of the stars as the Fijians or Solomon Islanders. Of course, as they have to produce fine weather or rain at will, it is not unnatural that they should study the signs of the weather closely. The great difficulty in the way of writing accurately about native superstitions is the disinclination on the men's part to talk of them. They have a scared look on their faces, and the information has to be dragged out of them bit by bit. If they should fancy they are ill after a conversation of this sort, which they very probably will, they are sure to lay the blame at the door of the inquisitive white man. It has been a common enough plan for white traders to gain their ends by working on native superstition and frightening them into doing work they would have preferred not to do. Occasionally, no doubt, it might be useful, but as a rule I should say it was an unsafe proceeding.

When I was in New Ireland, in 1883, I might quite easily have performed the miracle of foretelling an eclipse of the sun. I had with me a nautical almanack with a map of the eclipse, and by this I saw that the Northern end of New Ireland was on the line of partial contact. It would have been a dangerous experiment to try, and, besides, I could not have produced a total eclipse.

The native mind is very susceptible to ridicule, and if I once laughed at a man whom I had persuaded to confide in me, farewell to any chance of getting any more information out of him. The best plan is to listen to the men talking to themselves round a camp fire, under which circumstances they speak quite openly upon all sorts of sacred subjects. I heard not long ago that the people of a village in Milne Bay, who had been doing a good deal of work for a certain white man, had sworn, in consequence of several cases of illness in the village, to smoke no more white man's tobacco till they had procured a white man's head. They thought that a white man's devil was responsible for it, and that nothing but a head could frighten it away. I have never made up my mind whether anything of the nature of transmigration of souls is believed in. There was certainly a very large alligator at South Cape, which was known to the natives and called by the

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name of a defunct chief, but this in itself would be hardly sufficient to prove it. They seem to believe in something like the soul, but if the native soul is in the habit of entering into the lower animals, they must, as a rule, be small animals they patronise, as whenever they hold conversations with the living they speak in a small whistling voice.

The habit, too, of drumming and burning torches on the death of a relative seems to imply that they are sending the departed soul safely off on its journey. In some of the Louisiade Group there are certain very large well-known trees under which they have their feasts. These trees appear to be credited with possessing souls, as a portion of the feast is set aside for them, and bones, both pigs' and human, are everywhere deeply embedded in their branches. It is certain that the souls of murdered men are constantly haunting their skulls. I had, a short time ago, two skulls, which I had demanded of the natives of Moresby Island, sent me. They had to pass throughout the whole length of two large islands before they reached me, and wherever they went they were supposed to have caused sickness and death. It is true that they had for some four months adorned the houses of the murderers without producing evil results, but when the white man insisted on having them they considered that the white spirits were constantly hovering round them and working destruction wherever they rested.

I have constantly seen a man's widows, for days after his death, lying on the top of his grave and keeping up a rapid conversation with him for hours at a time till they stopped from exhaustion. A man's soul after death will haunt the places to which he was most attached on earth. There seems to be one locality in which they all live, but there are certain localities in the bush which, for instance, a widow will know to be frequented by her husband's shade. When a man dies his friends often put food in the grave with him, so that wherever he may be going to he shall suffer no inconvenience from hunger. It is a matter of doubt whether any actual mythology exists.

At all times, in dealing with savage races, it is most difficult to decide where history ends and mythology commences. Native memories, especially Papuan memories, are short, and I should imagine one hundred years to be quite the limit of time from which any events of importance have been handed down as matters of history. I have made repeated inquiries on this subject, and have never been able to learn anything satisfactorily. The actual history of some people—the Fijians, Forgans, Maoris, &c.—can be traced back nearly three hundred years; at least the chiefs can tell you who their ancestors were as far back as that. Here it is different. A man can perhaps tell you his great grandfather's name, but further back than that he cannot go.

As regards their mythology, a man believes in the spirits his father believed in, and invents as many more for himself as he feels inclined. No one objects to his having as many as he pleases; it

is only a matter of expense to himself, as he doubtless has to purchase a new charm whenever he invents a new devil.

The uninteresting commonplace stories of yam crops being destroyed by certain devils, and of shipwrecks and disasters of all sorts, are all very much alike, and are hardly worthy of being called a mythology, though, doubtless, the same stories have been told with very little variation from generation to generation.

I think it may be taken for granted, then, that they have no mythology of any interest, certainly none by which their actions of the present day are controlled. And after all it is only with the present day we have to do; no doubt, hundreds of years ago they were in every respect precisely the same as they are now, with the exception of their not having as yet acquired the passion for ornamenting their houses with that ethnological curiosity, a white man's head. In the South-eastern Archipelago dances are very rare, nor have .I ever seen one. Such dances as they are have been described to me as only performed after a feast. No superstitious importance is attached to them, and the details do not bear repetition.

But to the westward, in the Gulf of Papua, symbolical dances are constantly performed, and much superstitious importance surrounds them. Each man is dressed to represent some bird or fish, and the dresses they appear in are marvels of ingenuity and construction. The shark is a favourite symbol, as are also wild ducks and geese. No doubt each man in selecting his dress to dance in is paying a tribute to the bird or fish in whose image he presents himself. The shark has ferocity and cunning; the wild duck, swift flight and watchfulness; the cassowary, strength and speed of foot. One could go on multiplying endless instances.

But the people of the Papuan Gulf are as distinct from the inhabitants of the South-eastern Islands as both races are to the people who dwell on the North-west Coast and in Jeilvink Bay. I will endeavour, from the fear of becoming tedious on the subject of sorcery and superstition, to sum briefly the result of my observations. It is so important a matter in all dealings with natives that it should always be taken into account in the formation of plans in which you are dependent upon them. The best laid schemes may, and often do, entirely collapse through some unforeseen and unreckoned-for piece of superstition. Sometimes, indeed, mere physical fear will be represented as superstitious disinclination to do the white man's bidding. It is impossible for the most experienced white man to follow correctly the native train of thought, but his face is usually a good index to his feelings. They will usually follow a gun or even a revolver anywhere, as they imagine the noise and flash frighten the spirits, while the bullet kills the man. I have often been asked to fire off a gun to frighten away spirits.

Superstition is a constant source of annoyance, for the native spirits are always in the way, and the white man's spirits are of very little practical use to him. It is too deeply planted in their natures to be got rid of even under the teaching and

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influence of the missionaries. It does occasionally, however, exert itself for good, as in the case already related of the boy who was saved by the petticoats of the women. It is so foreign to the ideas of white men, that it cannot be wondered at that they sometimes unintentionally offend native prejudices, and have to suffer the consequences of their inexperience. There is no doubt, if it could be eradicated from their minds, that all intercourse with them could be carried on in a much safer and more agreeable manner than it is at present.

(Signed) H. H. ROMILLY,

APPENDIX J.

MASSACRES IN BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

(Correspondence respecting, and Report of Special Commissioner upon.)

(1.)

The PREMIER of VICTORIA to the PREMIER of QUEENSLAND.

Premier's Office, Melbourne,
July 21, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of certain questions put to me in the Legislative Assembly on the 20th instant relative to alleged disturbances in British New Guinea.

I beg to inquire whether you are in possession of any information as to the occurrences referred to, and to request that, if you are, you will oblige me by furnishing me with material for reply to the Parliamentary questions.

Should you have no positive information on the subject, I beg that you will kindly transfer this communication to his Excellency the Special Commissioner for New Guinea, whose latest address is, doubtless, in your possession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. GILLIES.

Enclosure in 1.

NOTICE of QUESTIONS to be asked in VICTORIAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Legislative Assembly,
Wednesday, July 20, 1887.

* * * * * * *

2. Mr. L. L. Smith to ask the Hon. the Premier—

(1.) Is the Government aware that one Nicholas Minister was employed by the Honourable John Douglas, Special

Commissioner of British New Guinea, to punish the natives for the murder of Captain Craig; that he shot several, supposed to be implicated in the affair, and decapitated three or four of those shot, and carried their heads to the Special Commissioner's Deputy, thereby creating an impression that the British are "head hunters"?

(2.) If this is correct, has this act of the Commissioner's Deputy and Nicholas Minister been the cause of the late disturbance at Motu Motu, whereby a mission teacher and five natives lost their lives?

(3.) Is the Commissioner empowered to declare war upon the natives, and what action is it the intention of this Government to pursue in the event of a general massacre of the Motu Motu men by the Gatling gun the Commissioner is reported to have taken against them?

(4.) In view of the unsatisfactory state of British New Guinea affairs, is it the intention of this Government to pay over any further portion of the public money towards defraying the expenses of the Protectorate without making a searching inquiry as to the manner in which the advances already subscribed have been expended?

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(2.)

The PREMIER of QUEENSLAND to the SPECIAL COMMISSIONER for BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
August 2, 1887.

SIR,

AT the request of Mr. Gillies, I have the honour to forward to you the accompanying letter and enclosure which I have received from him, and in which you will observe he desires to obtain certain information to enable him to reply to questions which have been asked in the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

(3.)

The PREMIER of QUEENSLAND to the PREMIER of VICTORIA.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
August 1, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo enclosing copy of a notice of certain questions to be put to you in the Legislative Assembly relative to occurrences alleged to have taken place within the jurisdiction of

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the Special Commissioner for British New Guinea, and requesting to be furnished with material for reply to the questions.

As I have no official information as to the circumstances referred to in the notice, I have caused a copy of your letter, with its enclosure, to be forwarded to the Special Commissioner, with a request that he will favour me with a report thereupon, upon receipt of which I will at once furnish you with the desired information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

(4.)

The SPECIAL COMMISSIONER for NEW GUINEA to the PREMIER of QUEENSLAND.

SIR, Granville, September 19, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowlege the receipt of your letter of the 2nd of August enclosing copy of a letter forwarded to you by Mr. Gillies, the Prime Minister of Victoria, and requesting to be supplied with information in reference to certain matters formulated in a series of questions by Mr. L. L. Smith, a member of Parliament.

2. That gentleman appears to think that the massacre of Tauraki, his child, and four friendly natives at Motu Motu in June, was in some way connected with and dependent upon the Craig massacre in September of last year at Joannet Island. The two places are more than 500 miles apart from one another. Joannet Island is in the Louisiade Group, fully 400 miles to the south-east of Port Moresby, while Motu Motu is 120 miles to the north-west. It is scarcely necessary for me to say that the incidents connected with the one case have no bearing on the other case.

3. I am anxious, however, that the particulars in both cases should be known to you and to Mr. Gillies, though they have already been fully reported on by me to Her Majesty's Government.

4. As to the Craig case, J. C. Craig, of Cooktown, Walter Holingsworth, a diver, Thompson, an American, and five Malays were engaged on the 16th of September 1886 in fishing for pearl shell in Joannet Harbour. They were taken unawares, and were treacherously killed by certain natives of Joannet Island. The "Emily" schooner, owned by Craig, was then seized, and after possessing themselves of the trade, arms, and ammunition on board of her, the natives spread the sails in the hold, poured kerosene over them, and set fire to the vessel. All the circumstances of the case were fully reported by me to Admiral Tryon, and by Mr. Forbes, the Resident Officer then stationd at Samarai, to Captain Clayton, of H.M.S. "Diamond." The matter was thoroughly inquired into by Mr. Forbes on the spot, and the facts were all established. On the 20th of November Captain Clayton,

in the "Diamond," visited the scene of the massacre, but could do nothing, for the offending natives had taken to the impenetrable bush. Shortly after I met the "Diamond" at Samarai (Dinner Island).

After consultation with Captain Clayton, and with his approval I arranged with Mr. Forbes that he should revisit Joannet and endeavour to recover the arms and ammunition taken from the "Emily." Mr. Forbes was, on the whole, successful in effecting the primary objects of the service in which he was engaged, the result of which is fully explained in the correspondence enclosed herewith, I have no reason to suppose that the natives either of Joannet, or of Sudest, or indeed of any of the islands of the Louisiade Group, are now possessed of ammunition or of any effective arms. There have been no further outrages there, and for some months past a small fleet of pearl-shelling boats have been engaged in peaceful industry not far from the scene of the Craig massacre. I have lately visited the locality myself, and have communicated in a friendly way with the natives, though the offenders in the "Emily" business, of course, held aloof.

5. In reference to the other case—the Tauraki murders—the following particulars will probably be of interest to you. On the 15th of June last I received information from Mr. Edelfelt, the Government agent at Motu Motu, that Tauraki, the South Sea Island missionary teacher stationed there, together with his child aged four years, and four friendly natives, had been killed by the inhabitants of Hetuari and Moviari, two villages situated on the Williams River and some miles up it. Tauraki's wife, a South Sea Island woman, was at the same time dangerously wounded. Mr. Edelfelt urgently requested assistance from me, and stated that if the offending villages were not punished it would be necessary for him to leave the district.

Motu Motu is a populous village at the mouth of the Williams River, and not far from Alice Meade Lagoon, which is also known, I believe, as McIlwraith Harbour. The entrance to the Williams is bad, the surf sometimes breaking over the bar. It is, however, an important place, and the centre of a most fertile and populous district.

It has frequently been visited by the Rev. Mr. Chalmers and by the Rev. Mr. Lawes, and for the last two years South Sea Island teachers have been stationed there; one of them died there last January. Tauraki has now been killed. He was a man of unusual energy, zeal, and intelligence, was well known on the coast, and his violent death at the hands of the natives created a profound sensation among his associates.

The natives of Motu Motu and of the Williams District are a restless, talkative, and somewhat turbulent people. They have the finest physical development of any of the natives of New Guinea I have seen, and they may be regarded as very hopeful savages, though they are decidedly combative.

Mr. Edelfelt has been stationed at Motu Motu by Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co., to encourage a trade in sago, which is very

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abundant in the district. I appointed him an agent for the Protectorate at a small salary. He was accompanied by his wife, an enterprising and courageous lady, who has been of great use to him in promoting friendly relations with the natives. They have both of them proved to be most intelligent emissaries, and they have in a short time acquired a considerable familiarity with the language and customs of the people. For some time past I have been advised by Mr. Edelfelt of various intertribal atrocities, including the killing of women and children, and the district was certainly in a disturbed state. He had by visiting the tribes done his best to bring about better relations between them, and I had already been advised that if I would intervene by some demonstration peace and security would follow. I did not, however, feel disposed to interfere in these intertribal disputes.

Indeed, at such a distance from Port Moresby, and with the limited resources at my command, I did not think it prudent to attempt anything of the kind, though my intervention might have been the means of saving life. But when I received the tidings of Tauraki's murder, I came to the conclusion that prompt action was necessary, if the lives of white men and of their friends were to be respected, and I knew that this unprovoked outrage, if it was not noticed by me, would have the worst possible effect on the mission stations in the neighbourhood. I determined, therefore, to give Mr. Edelfelt the best support I could, and to punish the offending villages. This was done: I sent to Motu Motu, under the orders of Mr. Robert Hunter, eight armed men, six being South Sea Islanders. The two Europeans, in addition to Mr. Hunter, were Messrs. Livesey and Mulholland. Mr. Livesey acted throughout with great coolness and courage, and I owe to him my thanks for his valuable services under somewhat critical conditions. Mr. Hunter was also most ably and intelligently assisted by Mr. Edelfelt, who, having a perfect knowledge of the locality, piloted the boats through the labyrinth of water-ways at the mouths of the Williams and Heath Rivers, and contributed in many ways to secure the success of the expedition. Thus, early on the morning of the 24th of June, the party threaded their way up the tidal channels to the vicinity of the Hetuari village. Here they landed and advanced on the village through a tangled forest. They were met by a continuous shower of arrows from the natives, who in great force were concealed in the long grass. Tom Niue, a South Sea Islander, was slightly wounded. Two of the natives who had been shooting arrows from under one of the houses were seen to fall.

Maka, the chief of Moviari, subsequently informed Mr. Edelfelt that five of the natives had been killed and that four were wounded. This, I have no doubt, was a true account of the casualties. The party then retired to their boats which, in the meantime, had been left unprotected on the river bank. Some efforts at peace-making then ensued, the natives bringing down propitiatory pigs, but the results of these negotiations were not altogether satisfactory, and the party returned to Motu Motu.

Three days after, on the 27th, a further advance was made on the village of Moviari, which, though no distance from Hetuari, was approachable by another branch of the river. The party again landed, leaving their boats in charge of some friendly natives, and passed on to the village across a sago swamp. The people decamped, taking with them arms, utensils, and many of their treasures. On this occasion there was no interchange of hostilities and no one was injured. Three of the Elamos, or large barrack-like houses where it is the custom of the men to live apart from the women, were set fire to and destroyed. Subsequent information received from Mr. Edelfelt, who has seen and conversed with Maka, the Moviari chief, leads me to conclude that there will be no more outrages, and that the natives are now anxious to keep the peace both with the white man and with one another. The last letter I have from Mr. Edelfelt informs me that he had visited several large inland villages on the St. Joseph River, and that he and Fathers Couppé and Verjus, who had accompanied him, were well received, the natives being fully advised of the Motu Motu affair, and of Mr. Edelfelt's part in it.

6. I have to request that you will communicate the contents of this letter to Sir Anthony Musgrave and to Sir Henry Loch, for the information of Mr. Gillies.

7. I must add, by way of explanation, that I was at Kerepunu when your letter of the 2nd of August arrived here. I was not able therefore, to answer it by return of post, and the break-down of the "Truganini" will further add, I fear, to the time which must elapse before you can receive this.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS,
Special Commissioner.

Enclosure 1 in 4.

Samarai (Dinner Island),
November 25, 1886.

SIR,

YOU are hereby authorised and instructed to proceed to Joannet Island for the purpose of making further inquiry into the circumstances connected with the massacre of Craig and the crew of the schooner "Emily."

(2.) I have arranged that Nicholas Minister, of the cutter "Lizzie," shall place his services at your disposal. The cutter and her crew will be under your orders for such time as you may require them on the terms specified in the accompanying agreement.

(3.) Mr. R. V. Cholmondeley, who has lately been acting as my Honorary Aide-de-Camp, has volunteered to accompany you, in order to assist you in accomplishing the object of your visit to Joannet. He will act as second in command to yourself, and I can commend him to you as possessing the requisite judgment and coolness for such a service.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

(4.) The main object which you will have to keep in view is to arrest the murderers, and to recover the arms now in their possession. For this purpose I authorise you to employ certain South Sea Islanders, who may be made useful in penetrating the dense jungle of Joannet Island. You may also find it expedient to secure the assistance of the "Albert" and her crew fishing in that neighbourhood.

(5.) Your object being to arrest the murderers and to obtain possession of the stolen property in the hands of the natives, you are hereby authorised to make use of the best means at your disposal to accomplish this. You must, however, be careful not to expose your own life or the lives of your party to any serious risk by following the natives into the jungle where the odds would be against you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS,
Special Commissioner.

H. O. Forbes, Esq.

Sub-Enclosure 1 to Enclosure 1 in 4.

AGREEMENT WITH NICHOLAS MINISTER.

Nicholas Minister agrees with the Special Commissioner for British New Guinea to place his cutter the "Lizzie," of 45 tons burthen, at the service of the said Commissioner, and to act, himself and his crew, under the orders of Mr. H. O. Forbes, observing strict discipline and obedience. The payment which Minister is to receive for the said service will be at the rate of 12*l.* per week, a minimum amount of 50*l.* being guaranteed to him.

(Signed) NICHOLAS MINISTER.
JOHN DOUGLAS.

Witness:
R. V. CHOLMONDELEY,
25th November 1886.

Sub-Enclosure 2 to Enclosure 1 in 4.

MR. FORBES'S COMMAND.

H. O. Forbes.
R. V. Cholmondeley.
Colin Thompson.
Thomas Connor.
Nicholas Minister.
P. Holtman.
W. Josche.
Three Malays and four South Sea Islanders.
"Coral Sea," lugger, 18 tons.
"Lizzie," cutter, 45 tons.

Enclosure 2 in 4.

The RESIDENT AGENT at Samarai to the SPECIAL COMMISSIONER for NEW GUINEA.

British New Guinea, Dinner Island,
January 13, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 30th November last, accompanied by Mr. R. V. Cholmondeley, I left Dinner Island for Joannet Island, in order, in pursuance of your Excellency's instructions, to bring to justice, if possible, the murderers of the master and crew of the ketch "Emily," of Cooktown.

The "Lizzie," cutter, in charge of Nicholas Minister, placed under my orders for the same end, weighed anchor the same morning.

The south east monsoon had not yet ceased, and, but very light winds prevailing, our progress was very slow; and the same afternoon our vessels parted company under arrangement to rendezvous at Mewstone Island.

On the 9th December at 6.30 p.m. the "Coral Sea" anchored at Mewstone, and on the 10th she was joined by the "Lizzie." Nicholas Minister reported to me that he had called at Teste Island, and had brought with him eighteen natives, who were willing to give their services to the Government for the purposes of the expedition. From Real Mewstone and the surrounding islands twenty-two additional men were engaged, making a levy of forty-five men, who, after hearing from me the nature of the services required of them, were engaged at a wage satisfactory to them. A red badge was affixed to each man to afford a mark of distinction from any other natives with whom they might afterwards commingle. I thereafter issued an order to all the neighbouring islands that no canoe should proceed to the eastward under severe penalties for disobedience, in order that no news of our intentions might reach Joannet in advance of ourselves.

On the 11th of December both vessels put to sea *en route* for Joannet Island. On the 12th, Mr. Cholmondeley was unfortunately laid down with a severe attack of fever, while Connor had been for some days on the incapacitated list from the same cause. On the afternoon of the 13th, having had light contrary winds and calms, both vessels arrived at the uninhabited island marked Earle Island on the chart. As the "Coral Sea" dropped anchor on the western side, I was surprised to observe two men on the edge of the scrub, suspiciously watching our movements. I at once landed with a small armed party in order to discover who they were. Crossing a narrow neck of land to the eastern side, where was a large reef-protected bay, I saw three canoes lying off the shore, towards which one of the men was swimming hard, while the others were still on the shore. The latter was at once captured. He belonged to Joannet Island, and his name, Kasawai, was well

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known to me in connexion with the inquiry into the circumstances attending Craig's murder, as one of the unfortunate man's employés on board the "Emily." All the canoes, we learned, belonged to Joannet or Grassy Islands, and were proceeding to a feast on Panakoba Island. Kasawai had, notwithstanding our altered colour, evidently recognised the "Coral Sea" (which had been in company with H.M.S. "Diamond" in Joannet Harbour a week or two previously) as having something to do with the Government.

Lest these canoes should put back to their homes before us with news of an approach which would be fatal to the success of our mission, and considering that they might probably contain some of those who were "wanted," and at least acquainted with the murderers and with the circumstances of the tragedy, I resolved, notwithstanding the sickness of Mr. Cholmondeley and the necessary loss of his valuable aid and advice, and Connor's disability, to capture the canoes. Remaining myself within sight of them, and keeping Kasawai a close prisoner, I ordered Minister to land the whole party quickly on the western beach and form two parties, a small company to man his own dingy and a larger one to proceed overland through the bush to the eastern point off which the canoes were lying, but to return in order to inform me of the arrangements made and of the time his guides thought would be required to reach that point before he led off his party, and before I should embark in charge of the dingies of both vessels to hem them into the Bay. This latter instruction Minister neglected to fulfil, sending only a message that he had started overland with his company.

At 5.30 p.m. I started with the dingies, compelling Kasawai, who speaks good English, to accompany me as interpreter. While still a long way from the canoes we were overtaken by the darkness; guided, however, by lights on the canoes the dingies closed up on them before I was able to discern where Nicholas Minister and his company were. Fearing that our approach might be detected and an escape effected, I had to act without him. Through Kasawai I ordered the canoes, under pain of my opening fire from both boats, to surrender, and navigate the canoes in front of us to where the ships were at anchor. They were also assured that if they obeyed nothing would happen to them, and after a period, if they were not implicated in the murder, they would be liberated. After some delay and refractoriness they gave in and set out for the anchorage, sailing a few yards in front of the dingies. At this juncture I became aware of Minister's arrival on the shore whence it was necessary to pick him up. I ordered all the canoes back to the shore, but, the leading one still holding on, notwithstanding a shot across its bows, I ordered the second dingy to follow it up.

Having embarked Minister's men as prize crews on the remaining canoes, and having taken on board Minister himself, I started in pursuit of the runaway, but failed in the darkness to fall in with it as did the other dingy, and I regret that it eluded us altogether. This would not have happened but for the unfortu-

nate illness of Mr. Cholmondeley, who would otherwise have been in charge of the second dingy, which had no white man on board. The prisoners, consisting of five men, four women, and two children, were confined on board the dingy, there being no room on board the "Coral Sea."

From Kasawai I obtained information of the account of the massacre already communicated to your Excellency and Captain Clayton, H.M.S. "Diamond." That account may be taken to be as accurate a statement of the circumstances as can be arrived at now where no European testimony is available. Corroboration was obtained of the fact that one of the chief causes of the attack was certainly a dispute about a rifle promised to Mutiana, of Popogania Village, Sudest Island, but not fulfilled by Craig, while one promised to another native was given to him. None of the men captured in the canoes, so far as any evidence could be got from Kasawai, were implicated in the massacre.

Lest the escaping canoes should have carried information of our intentions to four other Joannet Island canoes anchored about five or six miles further east—which it was impossible for us to prevent—and thereby convey a warning to their friends, I ordered the "Lizzie" to put to sea with the favourable tide at midnight, and proceed at once to Joannet, to act on the instructions I had issued to Minister, and if possible to intercept the five canoes. Unfortunately, a dead calm prevailed most of the 14th, and it was impossible for Minister to make much progress, or for the "Coral Sea" to weigh anchor until the forenoon. As she was weighing anchor a Panaceri canoe, proceeding eastward, appeared skirting the island, and was not a little alarmed by being turned back with a warning.

In the evening of the 14th both vessels anchored at the east end of Kaluma Island, whence further we could not proceed by daylight, on account of our then being in sight of Joannet Island, on which the people we were in quest of lived on the highest tops of the hills. After dark, therefore, the "Lizzie" moved close up under Low Island, in order that Minister might land his men.

On the 16th, early, the "Coral Sea" weighed anchor for a position near Huxley Point, in order to aid Minister if necessary or intercept any who might attempt to escape. In passing the "Lizzie" I received a message that the prisoners had jumped overboard in the night, though manacled two and two, through the negligence of the mate left in charge. The women and children had been landed with proper precautions the previous evening.

By noon I anchored near Huxley Point, not far from the schooner "Albert," when Minister came on board and reported that on the 15th he had landed all the natives under his charge near the village of Kasawai, in the N.W. Bay, Joannet Island, using the captured canoes and others taken on loan from Sabari and Lahosia for the purpose; that, having heard that no news of our attack had reached the implicated villages, he determined to attempt their capture.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Holding all the Kasawai villagers as prisoners, and with one of the first captured as guide, he landed the whole of his company on the shore below Godau village—the most deeply implicated—on the southern shore of the island by 7 p.m.; that by midnight they reached it, but found it deserted; that the next village was in like manner deserted. Proceeding silently and cautiously through the bush, Minister stumbled, about 3.30 a.m., on a pig lying in the path, which rushed forward, and was followed by a woman's cry of alarm. A few steps further brought his party close up to a few hastily-erected shelters, where the Godau people were camped.

Before the place could be surrounded they rushed out armed and were fired upon, when Dagomi, a noted cannibal and robber, the father of Mutiana (of Popogania village, Sudest), the actual murderer of Craig, was shot dead. He tried to follow up in pursuit, but the ground was very precipitous, rocky, and covered with dense bush, and as the moonlight was insufficient he halted until daylight. In the morning four distinct tracks of blood were traced into the bush, showing that at least that number of natives had been severely wounded. Further, he reported that the Godau people had dispersed through the bush and taken up places of difficult approach in a precipitous ravine, whence they discharged some shots at his party without effect; that he effected the capture of four rifles, one revolver, over three hundred cartridges, and several pounds of gunpowder, between fifty and sixty axes and knives, besides numerous other articles of little value, which had been looted from the "Emily," and that he had burned down the place which had evidently been intended to be the future village.

Proceeding on shore with Mr. Cholmondeley, I had the dead man identified before me, and inspected all the boats captured. The arms and ammunition were sent on board the "Coral Sea," but the axes, knives, and other small articles taken were distributed among the assisting natives, as they had all of them been in use.

After examining the objects taken, I had not the slightest doubt but that retribution had fallen on the proper persons.

I instructed Minister to proceed the same evening to Sudest and attempt the capture of Motiana, Craig's murderer, on Popogauia village. He proceeded thither after dark. At daybreak of the 17th we could see that the village, situated on a high hill some miles inland, was on fire. I stood over to Sudest, and about 10 o'clock Minister returned on board with the disappointing report that the village had evidently been deserted for some time, as there was nothing in it; that he saw no natives, and that he burned the houses, destroyed coconut trees, and ravaged their gardens.

On returning to Huxley Point late in the day I sent a party to burn the villages of Godau and Ewia, which were near the scene of the attack on the night of the 15th and 16th. The Godau people, I then learned, had joined with the Boadaia villages, and both parties were dispersed in the bush where it would be useless to attempt to discover them. I also ordered the destruction of the village of Kasawai, in North-west Bay, Joannet Island, where

Captain Clayton and myself had been refused aid from the villagers to lead us to the Godau people's camping ground, and where some of the murderers had houses.

This being all that was in our power to effect, I appointed a rendezvous at Mewstone, where I superintended the discharge of the natives employed by us. Later on at Teste Island I discharged, on the 2nd of January, the remainder of those who had taken part in the expedition.

In spite of all that the popular voice may proclaim to the contrary, few people who are not personally acquainted with the rough and untraversable nature of such islands as Joannet, Sabari, &c., and the thousand loopholes of escape and places of concealment, can realise the difficulty of capturing rebel natives, or following them up by narrow paths set with spear-points (as the Joannet Islanders' paths were), where all the odds are heavily against the pursuers, one of whom is one too many to lose by the hands of the miscreants.

I am perfectly convinced that all that was possible to be done at one opportunity was done by the party placed under Nicholas Minister who discharged the duties for which he was employed with commendation. No white troops could have done what they did, nor could South Sea Islanders or Queensland troopers have been any more successful under the circumstances, having to catch unawares culprits whose camping grounds were very indefinitely known.

The authoritative dictation of the natives as to their movements, the enforcement of the order, the seizure of the canoes at Earle Island, and the subsequent events at Joannet Island, are acts that have impressed the natives, and will have a beneficial effect on the population of the Louisiade Archipelago.

I confidently believe that the islanders in the neighbourhood who have been subjected to bandit treatment by the Godau and Boadaia natives will probably, now that these marauders have been deprived of some of the rifles and nearly all the ammunition, pay them back in their own coin, and help to reduce a tribe whose reputation is of the worst character.

I regret to have to draw your Excellency's attention to the inhumanitarian feeling among the traders themselves by continuing to barter on the most friendly terms with the very men whose hands are fresh dripping with the blood of one of their rivals.

On this account I have assumed the responsibility, till your Excellency's instructions shall have been received, of prohibiting the erection of all stations on, and cessation of all trade with, Joannet, Pig, Grassey, and Sudest Islands, the latter only as far east as 153 degrees and 30 minutes of longitude.

* * * * *

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY O. FORBES,
Acting Deputy Commissioner.

To His Excellency
the Hon. J. Douglas, C.M.G.,
Her Majesty's Special Commissioner for New Guinea.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Enclosure 3 in 4.

The SPECIAL COMMISSIONER for New Guinea to the RESIDENT AGENT at Samarai.

Petty's Hotel, Sydney,
February 16, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your several reports, dated December 1886 and the 13th January 1887, together with your general report for the year 1886: that of January 1887 was delivered to me yesterday by Mr. Cholmondeley. I have to-day forwarded to Admiral Tryon a copy of that portion of it which refers to your proceedings under my instructions of the 24th November last. It will be necessary that I should at once see you in connexion with your duties in Eastern New Guinea, and I have, therefore, to instruct you to meet me at the earliest possible date at Thursday Island. I shall endeavour to send the s.s. "Truganini" for you early in March.

Meanwhile it is my duty, pending further information, to explain to you the light in which I regard the manner in which you carried out my instructions.

These were, first and foremost, to obtain further information; then to endeavour to arrest the murderers, and to recover the stolen property.

I do not gravely call in question the manner in which you carried out these instructions up to the recovery of the arms, ammunition, and other stolen property. I did not authorise you to employ the Teste islanders as auxiliaries, and I understood from your communication to me of the 28th November 1886 that, at that time, you had no intention of availing yourself of any other force than that which I had placed at your disposal.

You had a most difficult task in hand, and I feel satisfied that you carried out, to the best of your ability, the instructions I gave you under circumstances of considerable emergency. Moreover, I cannot forget that it was your first experience in the discharge of duties which must always be distressing to humane men. I believe that your action will, on the whole, have a beneficial and deterrent effect. The recovery of a portion of the arms as well as of the ammunition was one of the main objects of the expedition—and this you have effected: up to that point the purposes in view had been accomplished.

3. The subsequent burning of villages was undoubtedly in excess of your instructions. You should not have given instructions to that effect, and you should not have allowed Nicholas Minister to land in order to effect that, or any other purpose, except under your immediate orders and personal direction.

4. I feel also bound to observe on that portion of your report in which you express a belief that the neighbouring tribes will avail themselves of opportunities further to weaken the Joannet Islanders, that it can never be my duty, or yours, to permit strife between neighbouring tribes. It may be necessary to visit

offending natives with exemplary and judicial punishment. In the case now under discussion, the natives of Joannet doubtless richly deserved punishment, and I do not take exception to the fate which, at your hands, befel some of them, when the arms and ammunition were recovered from them; but the gratuitous burning of villages, even though those villages were deserted, I entirely disapprove of.

It is necessary that the white man should, under proper limits, assert his power, and I should not myself hesitate to take life in order to vindicate justice, but I am most desirous to avoid not only the appearance but the reality of practices which are as barbarous as those of the natives themselves.

5. I wish you clearly to understand that it is my duty to discourage and, if possible, to repress intertribal devastations.

6. In reference to that portion of your report which informs me that you have forbidden Europeans to fish in the waters adjacent to Joannet, I approve of your decision, pending such further communications as I may have from you.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS.

H. O. Forbes, Esq., Resident, Samarai.

(5.)

The PREMIER of QUEENSLAND to the PREMIER OF VICTORIA.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
October 12, 1887.

SIR,

IN further reference to your letter of the 21st of July last, I have the honour to forward to you the accompanying copy of a report, with enclosures, received from the Special Commissioner for British New Guinea, containing information respecting certain matters referred to in a series of questions by Mr. L. L. Smith, a member of the Legislative Assembly of your Colony, from which you will observe that the massacre of Tauraki, his child, and four friendly natives, at Motu Motu, in June last, and the Craig massacre, which occurred at Joannet Island in September of last year, were two separate and distinct outrages, committed at localities more than five hundred miles apart.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

Enclosure in 5.

See No. 4 and Enclosures.

(6.)

The PREMIER of QUEENSLAND to His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

Chief Secretary's Office, Brisbane,
October 12, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the accompanying copy of a report, with enclosures, received from the Special Commissioner for British New Guinea, containing information in reference to certain matters formulated in a series of questions by Mr. L. L. Smith, a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Colony of Victoria, from which you will observe that the massacre of Tauraki, his child, and four friendly natives, at Motu Motu, in June, and the Craig massacre, which occurred at Joannet Island in September of last year, were two separate and distinct outrages, committed at localities more than five hundred miles apart.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. W. GRIFFITH.

Enclosure in 6.

See No. 4 and Enclosures.

(7.)

The PREMIER of VICTORIA to the PREMIER of QUEENSLAND.

Premier's Office, Melbourne,
October 20, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant forwarding copy of a report, with enclosures, received from the Special Commissioner for British New Guinea, containing information respecting certain matters referred to in a series of questions asked in the Legislative Assembly of this Colony by the Honourable L. L. Smith, M.P., on the 20th July last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. GILLIES.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 5.

NEW ZEALAND.

REPORT

BY THE

REGISTRAR-GENERAL

ON THE

STATISTICS OF THE COLONY FOR 1886.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 1888.

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1888.

[C.—5249-2.]

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No. 5.

NEW ZEALAND.

STATISTICS of NEW ZEALAND, 1886.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Registrar-General's Office, Wellington,
19th October 1887.

SIR,

IN my report on the statistics for 1885 I remarked, in reference to the delay in the completion of the statistical volume, on the difficulty experienced in obtaining returns from some of the local bodies. This difficulty has not yet been surmounted, and it has been fonnd necessary to print the tables although a few returns are still wanting: this of course impairs their completeness. The Counties Act of 1886 imposes on the chairman of every county council the duty of sending to the Colonial Treasurer before the 30th June in each year a statement of receipts and expenditure, in such form and with such particulars as the Treasurer may require, not only of his council, but of every road and town board within his county. Efforts will be made in future, with the co-operation of the Treasury Department, to enforce the requisite returns by virtue of the above provision. It is hoped that as a result a somewhat earlier compilation of the returns into a tabular form may be effected, and the tables themselves be more complete in character.

New tables of interest have been given in the volume showing the nature of the business of the various life insurance offices in the Colony, and further on in this Report will be found a table showing the annual estimated amount of wheat retained in the Colony for home consumption. A short statement of the different systems in operation for the disposal of Crown lands has been prepared, and is also given in this report; also additional tables have been given in the body of the volume in order to exhibit all the transactions under each system. Additional tables relating to immigration and other matters have also been given, making in all 16 new tables introduced.

The previous parts of the volume have been issued immediately on publication:—

Part III., Trade and Interchange, on the 14th June 1887.
Parts I. and II., Blue Book, Population Vital Statistics, on the 10th August 1887.
Part IV., Finance, Accumulation, and Production, on the 15th September 1887.
Part V., Law, Crime, and Education, on the 15th September 1887.

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NEW ZEALAND.

PART I.—BLUE BOOK.

The usual additions and corrections required to make the information complete to the end of 1886 have been made.

PART II.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The total estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December 1886 amounted to 631,355 persons. This includes 41,969 members of the Maori race, that being the number according to the returns of the Maori census obtained in the early part of the year. As, however, no records are kept of the births and deaths among that portion of the population, it is necessary to eliminate their numbers when dealing with the general vital statistics of the Colony.

The estimated number of the population, exclusive of Maoris, was on the date mentioned 589,386. The tables and proportions are applicable only to this portion of the population, and it will be understood that all remarks made strictly exclude all consideration of the number of the Maoris.

The estimated number of the population on the 28th March 1886 was 578,482; between that date and the 31st December the increase by excess of births over deaths amounted to 10,248, and that by excess of immigration over emigration to 656, the full measure of increase being 10,904 for the period, or at the rate of 1·88 per cent., equivalent to a rate of increase for the whole year of 2·57 per cent.

The estimated population in each of the Australasian Colonies, exclusive of Australian aborigines, except a few enumerated in Victoria and New South Wales, was on the 31st December 1886 as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Victoria - - - -	555,458	477,594	1,033,052
New South Wales - - -	577,509	453,253	1,030,762
Queensland - - -	201,586	142,182	343,768
South Australia - - -	162,788	149,651	312,439
Western Australia - - -	23,374	16,710	40,084
Total Australia -	1,520,715	1,239,390	2,760,105
Tasmania - - - -	73,323	63,888	137,211
New Zealand (other than Maoris) -	317,646	271,740	589,386
Maoris - - - -	22,840	19,129	41,969
Total Australasia -	1,934,524	1,594,147	3,528,671

Immigration.—The number of persons who arrived in the Colony in 1886 was 16,101, of whom 11,068 were males and 5,033 were females. Of the total number, 2,137 were under 12 years of age. Only 725 persons nominated by friends in the Colony were introduced partially at the Government expense. Of these, 329 were males and 396 were females, inclusive of 219 children under 12 years of age. These all arrived from the United Kingdom.

In addition to the nominated immigration, 192 persons came to the Colony under regulations made for the immigration of farmers and agriculturists possessed of small capital. The following are the regulations:—

> The Agent-General will provide passages for a limited number of persons who may be desirous of taking up land in New Zealand at the same rates as are required to be paid by persons nominating their friends in the Colony, namely, 10*l.* for each adult, and 5*l.* for each child between the ages of one and 12 years.
>
> Before passages will be provided, however, each head of a family must prove to the satisfaction of the Agent-General that he is possessed of 100*l.* in cash, and that he is also possessed of cash equal to the sum of 50*l.* for each member of his family over twelve years of age.
>
> Persons desirous of doing so can arrange to come out in the second class, on the above terms, by an additional payment equal to the difference between the cost of steerage and second-class passages.

Forty-one farmers arrived under these regulations in 1886, bringing their families with them, the total number of persons being 192, viz., 60 males and 49 females over 12 years of age, 42 males and 35 females between one and 12 years of age and six infants.

There were not any immigrants in 1886 whose passages were wholly paid for by the Government.

Of the arrivals, 6,893 came from the United Kingdom, 3,570 from Victoria, 4,563 from the other Australian Colonies, 559 from Hawaii and the South Seas (including those who arrived from San Francisco, touching at the Sandwich Islands), 310 from Fiji, and 206 from other ports.

Emigration.—The number of persons whose departures from the Colony in 1886 were recorded was 15,037, of whom 10,442 were males and 4,595 females, inclusive of 2,184 children under 12 years of age. Of these, 2,385 went direct to the United Kingdom, 11,686 to the Australian Colonies and Tasmania, 171 to Fiji, 673 to Hawaii, San Francisco, and the South Seas, and 122 to other ports.

The number of Chinese who left was 181, but as 239 Chinese arrived, the number of arrivals exceeded the number who left by 58.

Excess of Immigration over Emigration.—The addition to the population in 1886 by excess of arrivals over departures was only

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1,064. This is the smallest addition from that cause on record since 1860, with the exception of that in 1868, when the excess of immigration was only 860. The gain as against the United Kingdom was 4,508, but that was largely balanced by loss in favour of the Australian Colonies, the emigration to them having been in excess of the immigration by 3,553.

The total emigration from the United Kingdom to Australasia in 1886 amounted to 44,053 persons. The number which came to New Zealand was 6,893, equal to 15·64 per cent. of the total number emigrating. The number of unassisted immigrants who have arrived in the last ten years is 123,335, and the number of assisted immigrants 37,195, giving a total of 160,530 persons who have arrived in the Colony within that period. During the same time the recorded departures numbered 87,675, and the unrecorded about 10,500, estimated from the census results, giving a total number of 98,175 as representing the actual departures. The excess of immigration over emigration for the ten years was thus 62,355. The excess of arrivals direct from, over departures direct to, the United Kingdom amounted to 72,283; but the excess of departures to the Australian Colonies and Tasmania over the arrivals therefrom was 11,002, including the 10,500 persons whose departures were not recorded, and who could only have left for the Australian Colonies. This is a large apparent gain by the Australian Colonies at the expense of New Zealand; but some allowance, the measure of which cannot be ascertained, although evidently but a small proportion, must be made for travellers from and to the United Kingdom returning by way of Australia.

As the increase by excess of births over deaths for the ten years was 132,259, the increase by excess of immigration over emigration 62,355, was less than half the natural increase.

Naturalisation.—199 natives of foreign States were naturalised as British subjects during the year. Of these, 53 were Germans, 38 were Danes, 44 were Swedes and Norwegians, 20 were Chinese 13 were Swiss, 8 were French, 5 were from the United States of America, and 18 of other nationalities.

Vital Statistics.

Births.—The number of births registered in 1886 was 19,299, less than in either of the two previous years. The rate was 33·15 per 1,000 of the population, the lowest on record in the Colony. The increasing proportion of young persons under 21 to the total population would naturally tend to slightly lessen the birth-rate to the 1,000 of population, but would not account for an absolute decrease in the number of births, while the population is at the same time increasing. In the report on the results of the census of 1886 it was remarked that "the proportions of married women "under 20 years of age and from 20 to 35 are steadily diminishing, "while the proportion from 35 to 45 years is steadily increasing, "the relative proportions approximating gradually to those that

"obtain in England." This cause also may lower the birth-rate, but is insufficient to account for the decrease in the number.

The decrease in the number of births is not apparently attributable to a decrease in the number of marriages, for, while there was an increase of 188 in the number of marriages in 1884, there was a decrease of 153 in the number of births in 1885, and, with an increase of 13 marriages in 1885, there was a decrease of 394 births in 1886.

The following shows the increase or decrease of marriages in each of the ten years, 1876–85, and the increase or decrease in the number of births in each subsequent year :—

Year.	Marriages.	Increase or Decrease on preceding Year.	Year.	Births.	Increase or Decrease on preceding Year.
1876 -	3,196	— 13	1877 -	16,856	+ 688
1877 -	3,114	— 82	1878 -	17,770	+ 914
1878 -	3,377	+ 263	1879 -	18,070	+ 300
1879 -	3,352	— 25	1880 -	19,341	+ 1,271
1880 -	3,181	— 171	1881 -	18,732	— 609
1881 -	3,277	+ 96	1882 -	19,009	+ 277
1882 -	3,600	+ 323	1883 -	19,202	+ 193
1883 -	3,612	+ 12	1884 -	19,846	+ 644
1884 -	3,800	+ 188	1885 -	19,693	— 153
1885 -	3,813	+ 13	1886 -	19,299	— 394

Comparing the births for the years 1880 and 1885, being those immediately preceding the census in the early part of 1881 and 1886 respectively, it will be observed that the number of children born was 19,341 in 1880 and 19,693 in 1885. Deducting the illegitimate births, and also one in each case of births of twins, so as to ascertain the number of single births by married women, the results are as follows :—

1880 - 18,699 (471 illegitimate births, and one in each of 171 cases of twins births deducted).

1885 - 18,900 (630 illegitimate births, and one in each case of 163 twins deducted).

In 1881 there were 57,467 wives between 15 and 45 years of age ; in 1886 there were 62,704 wives between 15 and 45 years of age ; being an increase of 5,234 in the number of wives at the child-bearing ages, but only an increase on the number of distinct legitimate births of 206. The number of similar births in 1886 was 18,532, or less by 167 than in 1880, although the number of

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wives must have been even greater in the beginning of 1887 than in 1886. Had the births been in the same proportion to the wives in 1885 and 1886 as in 1880, the actual number in 1885 would have been greater by 1,500, and in 1886 by about 1,900. It is evident, therefore, that causes are in operation in restraint of births, probably produced in part by the depression that has prevailed and still continues. No one cause singly is accountable for the difference. The diminution in the proportions of the married women under 35 years of age, the proportions from 35 to 45 increasing in the same ratio, is doubtless, to some extent, a factor to be considered.

The birth-rate in 1886 (33·15) per 1,000 living was higher than the birth-rate in England in 1885 (32·5), but less than the mean English birth-rate for the last 48 years (34·0). The birth-rate in England has fallen during the past few years; the mean rate for the years 1881–85 having been less than during any quinquennium since 1846–50.

The birth-rate in New Zealand does not compare favourably with those in the other Australasian Colonies. In 1880 it had the highest birth-rate (40·78); in 1886 the lowest but one, viz., that in Victoria; the decrease in the rate having been progressive year by year.

In New South Wales there has been a decrease in the period by less than one third of that in New Zealand. In Queensland the rate has been fluctuating, but without any great alteration between the two extremes of the period. Victoria, with the lowest rate, nearly maintains the same. South Australia exhibits a small decrease on the whole; while in Western Australia and Tasmania the later are higher than the earlier rates of the period.

The following were the birth-rates per 1,000 of mean population for the period 1880–86 inclusive :—

Colony.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Queensland - - -	36·92	37·19	35·85	36·92	35·75	36·66	40·21
New South Wales - -	38·80	38·13	37·37	37·49	38·53	37·64	37·03
Victoria - - -	30·75	31·24	30·04	30·02	30·49	30·74	31·23
South Australia - -	38·94	38·66	37·40	37·37	38·38	37·30	35·32
Western Australia - -	32·35	33·67	35·84	33·87	33·84	35·22	39·21
Tasmania - - -	32·91	33·40	33·50	34·25	35·66	35·08	34·15
New Zealand - - -	40·78	37·95	37·32	36·28	35·91	34·35	33·15

The birth-rates in the Boroughs of Auckland and Wellington exceeded, while those in Christchurch and Dunedin were less than the rate for the Colony as a whole. The births per 1,000 of mean population were as follows :—

	1886.
Auckland - - - -	34·80
Wellington - - - -	37·52
Christchurch - - - -	29·95
Dunedin - - - -	27·82

The lower rates in Christchurch and Dunedin have previously been stated to be attributable to the tendency among young married people to reside outside the borough boundaries for economic reasons.

Sex.—The male births numbered 9,872, and the female births 9,427, the proportion being 104·72 males born to every 100 females. The proportion in 1885 was 103·59 males to every 100 females, the lowest since 1878, when the proportions were 101·57 males to 100 females. In England the proportions of males to the 100 females born during the 10 years, 1876–85, varied between 103·5 and 104·2.

Twin Births.—There were 165 cases of twin births (330 children). In 1885 the cases of twin births were 161.

Illegitimate Births.—The children whose births were registered as illegitimate numbered 602, being in the proportion of 1 to every 31 legitimate births, or of 3·1 to every 100 living children born. The growing rate of illegitimacy in New Zealand was referred to in the report on the statistics of 1884. The rate is still growing. In the last 10 years it has increased exactly one half, although still considerably less than the rate in the other Australasian Colonies, or than in England and other European countries, excepting Ireland and Greece.

The following was the proportion of illegitimate births in every 100 births in New Zealand for the past ten years:—

1877	2·08
1878	2·41
1879	2·30
1880	2·43
1881	2·85
1882	2·87
1883	2·78
1884	2·95
1885	3·30
1886	3·12
Mean for 10 years	2·71

The greatest number of births occurred in the September quarter, and the next greatest in the December quarter. This was in accordance with previous experience; but in former years the number of births in any March quarter, has always been less than the number in the succeeding June quarter; while in 1886 the number in the March quarter was greater by 95 than that in the June quarter.

Marriages.— There was a considerable diminution in the number of marriages solemnised in 1886, the number having fallen

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from 3,813 in 1885 to 3,488 in 1886, and the proportion to the 1,000 of population from 6·65 to 5·99. This is the lowest rate on record in any of the Australasian Colonies for the past 20 years, except in three instances—once in Western Australia and twice in Tasmania, when the rate was slightly less. The marriage-rate of 5·99 was considerably more than one third (38 per cent.) less than in 1867.

The number of marriages was less by 112 in 1886 than in 1882, and only 211 more than in 1881; while the number of unmarried males between 20 and 40 years of age (exclusive of Chinese) increased from 46,334 in 1881 to 49,860 in 1886; and the number of unmarried females at the ages 20 to 30 increased from 13,400 to 20,129. The only apparent cause for the lower marriage-rate appears to be the general depression experienced owing to the fall in the value of produce and of wages, and the consequent discouragement to incurring the risk and expense of married life.

The number of marriages given does not include those between persons both of whom were members of the aboriginal race.

Forms of Marriage.—Of the total number of marriages, 750, or 21·50 per cent., were solemnised by ministers of the Church of England; 919, or 26·33 per cent., by ministers of the Presbyterian Churches; 474, or 13·58 per cent., by ministers of the Wesleyan and other Methodist Churches; and 366, or 10·49 per cent., by ministers of the Roman Catholic Church. 174 marriages, or 4·98 per cent., were solemnised by ministers of other religious bodies; and 806, or 23·10 per cent., by registrars.

The following shows the proportions of marriages in the several denominations in 1885–86, and the proportion of the persons of the denominations named to the total population:—

Denomination.	Per-centage of Marriages.		Per-centage of Denominations to Total Population in 1886.
	1885.	1886.	
Church of England - -	21·97	21·50	40·17
Presbyterians - - -	23·64	26·34	22·59
Wesleyan and other Methodists	13·79	13·58	9·55
Roman Catholics - -	12·87	10·49	13·95
Other denominations - -	4·32	4·99	—
Registrars - - -	23·41	23·10	—

The marriages solemnised according to the rites of the Church of England were 88 fewer in number than in 1885, those according

to the Roman Catholic persuasion were 125 fewer, and those by ministers of the Wesleyan and other Methodist Churches were 45 fewer, but there was an increase of 17 in the number by Presbyterian ministers. There were 87 fewer marriages by registrars. Judging by the reduced number, and the smaller proportion of marriages, it would appear that the depression operating in restraint of marriage was more felt by members of the Roman Catholic Church than by those of any other body, or that they exercised more prudence than others.

Signatures in Marriage Registers.—The number of men who signed the marriage register by marks was 67, or in the proportion of 1·92 per 100 married; the number of women was 101, or in the proportion of 2·89 per 100 married. On referring to the returns for the year 1876 it is found that 3·85 per cent. of the men and 9·29 per cent. of the women married signed by marks. The improvement in the interval is very great, especially among the females.

The following are the proportions per 100 marriages in each denomination who signed by marks in 1885–86 :—

Marriages according to the Rites of the	1885.		1886.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Church of England - -	1·43	1·55	0·93	1·20
Presbyterians - - -	1·33	1·77	0·98	0·76
Wesleyans and Methodists -	1·90	1·90	0·63	1·48
Roman Catholics - - -	6·11	8·35	4·64	6·56
Other denominations - -	3·84	1·92	1·15	2·30
Registrars - - - -	4·48	7·16	3·60	6·20

As the census returns afford information as to the numbers and ages of those who can read, write, can read only, or cannot read, the value of the marriage registers as evidence of the possession of a certain amount of rudimentary education is now of little worth, except that it indicates very roughly the relative proportions of entirely uneducated persons in the several denominations respectively. In considering these proportions it must be observed that it is obvious a considerable proportion of the persons marri d by registrars consists of nominal members of the Church of England.

Ages of Persons married.—Of the persons married in 1886, 68 males and 910 females were under 21 years of age; 7 of these females were between 15 and 16 years of age, and 30 between 16 and 17. The following are the proportions of men and women

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	1885.		1886.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Under 21 years - - -	1·97	26·49	1·95	26·09
21 and under 25 years - -	27·30	43·33	26·81	42·95
25 and under 30 years - -	35·54	17·44	34·72	17·95
30 and under 40 years - -	23·86	8·73	25·57	8·95
40 and under 50 years - -	8·16	3·17	7·51	3·18
50 and under 60 years - -	2·44	0·76	2·84	0·77
60 and under 70 years - -	0·62	0·05	0·43	0·08 (two)
70 and upwards - - -	0·10	—	0·17	0·03 (one)
Age not specified - -	—	(one)	—	—

Deaths.—The deaths in 1886 numbered 6,135, being equivalent to a rate of 10·54 per 1,000 persons of the mean population for the year. This is the lowest rate on record, with the exception of that in 1874 (10·13), and that in 1884 (10·39).

The extremely low death-rate in New Zealand, compared with the rates that obtain elsewhere, is manifest from the following death-rates per 1,000 of the mean population:—

	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
New Zealand -	11·47	10·96	12·46	11·46	11·13	11·19	11·45	10·39	10·76	10·54
Queensland - -	17·29	20·41	14·97	13·59	15·02	17·99	18·82	22·97	19·58	17·29
New South Wales	15·69	16·36	14·76	15·47	15·17	16·12	14·68	16·14	16·41	14·89
Victoria - - -	15·80	15·46	14·53	13·70	14·16	16·23	14·28	14·46	14·98	15·15
South Australia -	14·00	15·44	14·04	14·79	13·90	14·84	14·55	15·24	12·48	13·33
Western Australia	15·70	14·07	14·46	13·24	13·80	14·16	17·93	21·87	17·61	21·56
Tasmania - -	19·17	15·66	15·18	16·12	14·77	15·79	17·06	15·50	15·40	14·58
England and Wales	20·3	21·6	20·7	20·5	18·9	19·6	19·5	19·6	19·0	—
England Town Districts - -	21·8	23·4	22·1	21·9	20·3	21·2	20·8	20·9	20·0	—
England Country Districts - -	18·2	19·0	19·1	18·5	16·8	17·3	17·7	17·4	17·5	—
Scotland - -	20·6	21·2	20·0	20·5	19·3	19·3	20·1	19·4	19·1	—
Ireland - - -	17·5	18·6	19·6	19·8	17·5	17·4	19·2	17·6	18·4	—
Denmark - -	18·7	18·5	19·8	20·4	18·3	19·3	18·4	18·4	17·9	—
Norway - - -	16·9	15·8	15·0	15·9	16·8	18·4	17·1	16·4	16·4	—

—	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Sweden - - -	18·7	18·1	16·9	18·1	17·7	17·4	17·3	17·5	17·8	—
Austria - - -	31·6	31·6	29·9	29·7	30·6	30·8	30·1	29·2	29·9	—
Hungary - -	36·3	37·6	36·4	38·6	35·6	36·6	32·6	31·4	—	—
Switzerland - -	23·5	23·3	22·6	21·9	22·4	21·9	20·3	20·1	21·1	—
German Empire -	26·4	26·2	25·6	26·0	25·5	25·8	25·9	24·0	25·7	—
The Netherlands -	22·2	23·0	22·5	23·5	21·5	20·7	21·8	22·2	21·0	—
France - - -	21·6	22·6	22·5	22·8	22·0	22·2	22·2	22·2	22·0	—
Italy - - -	28·2	28·9	29·9	30·5	27·6	27·5	27·5	26·7	26·6	—

The death-rate calculated on the whole population, that is, the proportion of all the deaths to every 1,000 of the whole of the population living in the middle of the year, is a fair index of the sanitary condition of the population of the same country if compared from year to year; it may also be used for the purpose of comparing the healthiness of different countries whose respective populations contain a fairly equal proportionate number at each age-period of life. It cannot, however, be considered a fair index of the comparative healthiness of new and old countries, nor even of that of new countries one with another, when the relative proportions living at the several age-periods vary considerably. The greater or less proportion of persons in the prime of life, and of aged as well as of very young people, have a very important bearing on the death-rates; the mortality per 1,000 living being very much greater among children under 5 years of age, and old people of 60 years and over, than among those in the much greater age-period between 5 and under 60 years.

It will be evident from a consideration of the following table how largely the general death-rate may be affected by the different proportions living at each age-period, as well as by the mortality per 1,000 living at each period:—

—	Per-centage of Persons at each Age-period at last Census.			Ordinary Death-rate per 1,000 living.
	Under 5 Years.	5 and under 60 Years.	60 and Upwards.	
New Zealand - - -	15·01	81·77	3·22	1886, 10·54
Victoria - - - -	13·41	81·99	4·60	1885, 14·98
Queensland - - -	14·95	82·70	2·35	1885, 19·58
New South Wales - -	14·79	80·92	4·29	1885, 16·41
Tasmania - - -	13·99	77·99	8·02	1886, 15·40
South Australia - -	14·89	80·96	4·15	1886, 13·38

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	Death-rate per 1,000 living at each Age-period.			Per-centage of Deaths of Persons at each Age-period to Total Deaths.		
	Under 5 Years.	5 and under 60 Years.	60 and Upwards.	Under 5 Years.	5 and under 60 Years.	60 and Upwards.
New Zealand - - -	28·52	5·75	48·28	40·62	44·63	14·75
Victoria - - - -	40·84	7·86	66·71	36·07	43·18	20·75
Queensland - - -	50·82	12·98	53·19	38·80	54·82	6·38
New South Wales - -	48·02	8·04	65·35	43·27	39·65	17·08
Tasmania - - -	33·50	6·21	63·13	32·12	33·18	34·69
South Australia - -	40·09	6·35	58·29	44·12	38·00	17·88

For the purpose of these calculations all persons given as of unspecified age at the time of the census have been included among those between 5 and 60 years of age, it having been evident, from the census schedules in this Colony, that those persons were neither young children nor aged. The deaths of those of unspecified age have been similarly treated.

It will be observed that Queensland has the smallest proportion of aged people, and New Zealand the next smallest, but that in Tasmania the proportion is very considerably greater than in either of the other Australasian Colonies, and that more than one-third of the deaths in Tasmania were of persons over 60 years of age, against a little less than one seventh in New Zealand. It is evident that this disproportion of age persons in the respective populations must largely affect the different total death-rates.

The death-rates per 1,000 living are fairly comparable for ages under 60 years. New Zealand had the lowest death-rate for the year given. The mortality among children under 5 years of age was, in the years respectively given, lowest in New Zealand, viz., 28·52 per 1,000 living, and next lowest in Tasmania, 33·50. The deaths of children were proportionately most numerous in Queensland, 50·82 per 1,000 living, and next in New South Wales with a rate of 48·02. In the next age-period, 5 to 60, New Zealand headed the list with the lowest mortality, 5·75 per 1,000 living, against 12·98 in Queensland, 8·04 in New South Wales, and 7·86 in Victoria; the extremely high rate in Queensland being due to the great mortality among the South Sea Islanders. At the age above 60, New Zealand had again the smallest proportion of deaths, but at this age the comparison of the death-rates fails, owing to the disproportion both in the number and in ages of aged persons; those having the largest proportions living having also the largest proportion of persons at advanced ages, among whom the mortality is always very heavy.

Several methods have been devised to obtain death-rates that may be used as standards of comparison of the health and sanitary

condition of different countries, but no single rate for all ages, however arrived at, will serve this purpose, except for comparison between countries in which the proportions living at each age of life are nearly the same. The only correct method is to compare the death-rates at each year of life or at each quinquennium.

As a single standard, the adoption of what is designated as the absolute death-rate has been proposed by the Government Statist for Victoria. It is stated to be a mean of death-rates arranged according to quinquennial ages, but is computed on the mean of the death-rates per 1,000 living on quinquennial periods up to 25, and per 2,000 living on decennial periods from 25 to 75 years. But the mean of the periods so combined is not the same as the mean of the quinquennial periods up to 75, as in any decennial period the mean of the two quinquenniums which compose it does not coincide with the rate for the decennium, owing to the differences of the rate and of the numbers living in each quinquennium. The rate so arrived at is of an arbitrary character, and even if comparable with a similarly constituted rate in another country, yet it does not represent the actual proportion of deaths among the population as a whole even to the limit of the ages given. No mean of death-rates, in which high death-rates among a comparatively small portion of the population are distributed equally among the much smaller death-rates for the bulk of the population—for that is the practical result of adding all the death-rates together and dividing the result by the number of age-periods for which they are given—affords a fair index of the mortality of the population.

The wide variation of the absolute death-rate, devised as above mentioned, from the death-rate per 1,000 of the whole population, is evidenced by the following results :—

	New Zealand, 1886.
Death-rate per 1,000 at all ages living - - - -	10·54
Absolute death-rate on Mr. Hayter's plan: taking of quinquennial periods to 25 years, and decennial periods from 25 to 75. The mean of the rates for those periods - - - -	15·48
Absolute death-rate by adoption of quinquennial periods throughout. The mean of the rates for those periods - - -	16·00

Mr. Johnston, the Government Statist at Hobart, has proposed what he designates "the actual health-standard," being the death-rate on all ages under 60 years. This, as a single rate, is a better index of the sanitary condition and mortality of the population, but the exclusion of the deaths of persons over 60 years of age, many of which can hardly be said to have occurred from other than preventable causes, somewhat impairs the value of the rate;

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	Deaths per 1,000 at all Ages.	Health Standard : Deaths under 60 Years of Age per 1,000 living under that Age.
New Zealand, 1886	10·54	9·28
Tasmania, 1886	14·58	10·36
South Australia, 1886	13·38	11·59
Victoria, 1885	14·98	12·45
New South Wales, 1885	16·41	14·22
Queensland, 1885	19·58	18·77

The following were the death-rates per 1,000 living for New Zealand, the Australasian Colonies named, and England respectively, at successive age-periods for the years stated :—

Age.	New Zealand.	Queensland.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	South Australia.	Tasmania.	England.
Under 5 years	1886. 28·52	1885. 50·82	1885. 47·86	1885. 40·84	1886. 40·09	1886. 33·50	1885. 52·9
5 and under 10 years	3·06	3·64	4·18	3·49	3·34	3·06	5·0
10 and under 15 years	2·46	2·08	2·51	2·45	1·74	1·50	3·0
15 and under 20 years	3·45	15·41	3·91	3·69	3·45	4·09	4·5
20 and under 25 years	5·11	20·24	6·54	5·28	4·53	6·45	5·7
25 and under 35 years	6·07	16·86	9·52	7·75	7·60	8·12	7·9
35 and under 45 years	7·87	12·87	11·21	11·45	9·64	7·39	11·6
45 and under 55 years	11·87	18·70	17·16	16·55	13·02	11·24	17·2
55 and under 65 years	22·77	31·75	29·35	28·88	26·28	20·37	31·6
65 and under 75 years	46·47	50·62	63·58	52·06	58·34	64·36	66·7
75 and upwards	123·16	132·20	172·06	148·84	155·25	160·76	158·42

The wide differences in the rates of mortality of children under five years of age, and the low rate in New Zealand compared with the other rates, are very striking. This lower rate in New Zealand is an important factor in the low general death-rate,

The death-rate at each age-period was lower in New Zealand than in the other countries named, with the following exceptions:—

At 5 and under 10 the rates in New Zealand and Tasmania were the same.
At 10 and under 15 the rates in South Australia and Tasmania were lower.
At 20 and under 25 the rate in England was lowest.
At 35 and under 45 the rate in Tasmania was lower.
At 45 and under 55 the rate in Tasmania was lower.

The rates for 75 years and upwards are not fairly comparable apart from the proportions living at each year of age above 75, as those countries having the largest proportionate numbers at the more advanced ages have in consequence the highest death-rates for that age-period.

The death-rates in the four principal boroughs in 1886 were as follow:—

Auckland	- -	14·42 per 1,000 living.
Wellington	- -	17·02 „
Christchurch	- -	13·31 „
Dunedin	- -	12·69 „

In each case the higher death-rate was accompanied by the higher birth-rate:—

Auckland, births per 1,000 persons living	34·80
Wellington, births per 1,000 persons living -	37·52
Christchurch, births per 1,000 persons living -	29·95
Dunedin, births per 1,000 persons living -	27·82

As the mortality among infants is proportionately heavier than among the rest of the population, a high birth-rate involves a proportional increase to the general death-rate. The mortality among infants under 1 year of age was also proportionately greater in Auckland and Wellington, where the death-rates were highest, than in Christchurch and Dunedin:—

Auckland, deaths of infants under 1 year per 100 births - - - -	17·31
Wellington, deaths of infants under 1 year per 100 births - - - -	17·26
Christchurch, deaths of infants under 1 year per 100 births - - -	15·03
Dunedin, deaths of infants under 1 year per 100 births - - - -	11·25

The infantile mortality in Auckland and Wellington was thus more than one third greater than in Dunedin.

The deaths in the hospitals of persons who were not residents of the boroughs have been excluded from the numbers on which the rates are calculated.

Sexes of Deceased Persons.—Of the 6,135 deaths in 1886, 3,516 were of males and 2,619 of females; the proportion of deaths to

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the 1,000 persons of each sex living having been 11·16 of males and 9·79 of females, or, in equal numbers living, 112 males to every 100 females. The mortality among males was greatest at all ages except the following: between 1 and 5 years, between 20 and 30 years, between 40 and 50 years, and between 70 and 80 years.

The following shows the mortality in 1886 per 1,000 living at each of the age-periods stated:—

	Males.		Females.	
	No. of Deaths.	Per 1,000 living at that Age.	No. of Deaths.	Per 1,000 living at that Age.
Under 1 year	1,027	110·12	872	95·13
1 and under 5 years	299	8·60	294	8·60
5 and under 10 years	143	3·34	117	2·77
10 and under 15 years	77	2·24	91	2·70
15 and under 20 years	111	3·79	94	3·12
20 and under 25 years	129	5·20	124	5·01
25 and under 30 years	125	5·08	127	6·31
30 and under 40 years	297	7·00	219	7·12
40 and under 50 years	366	9·75	178	7·51
50 and under 60 years	385	17·87	152	12·76
60 and under 70 years	289	35·81	140	26·17
70 and under 80 years	179	74·03	163	85·38
80 and upwards	87	163·23	47	116·62

Of the 87 males who died over 80 years of age, 31 were between 85 and 90, and 8 upwards of 90 years. Of these, 2 in Auckland reached the age of 96, 19 females were between 85 and 90, and 3 exceeded 90 years of age; all these 3 were in the Otago District, 2 having reached the age of 96.

There are annually more births of males than of females, the proportion of male to female births ranging between 101·57, and 106·74 males to every 100 females born. The higher male birth-rate is accompanied by a greater mortality among male than female infants, not only absolutely but also proportionately to the number of births. In 1886 the number of male births was 9,872; the number of deaths of male infants under 1 year of age, 1,027, being at the rate of 104·03 per 1,000 births. The number of female births was 9,427; the deaths 872, at the rate of 92·50 per 1,000 female births.

The following gives the proportion of male and female deaths at the ages stated for the year 1886 to the 1,000 of male and female births, and also the means for the six years 1881–86:—

Year.	Sex.	Under 1 Month.	1 and under 3 Months.	3 and under 6 Months.	6 and under 12 Months.	Total under 12 Months.
1886	Male	32·62	21·17	21·47	28·87	104·03
	Female	24·61	19·20	21·53	27·16	92·50
6 years, 1881–86	Male	34·59	20·16	21·98	28·03	104·77
	Female	27·83	17·27	18·61	24·99	88·71

The probability of living during the first year of age is thus much greater in favour of female than of male infants. The experience of the above six years gives, among equal numbers born—

100 deaths of males to 80·4 deaths of females under 1 month of age.
100 deaths of males to 85·6 deaths of females from 1 to 3 months of age.
100 deaths of males to 84·7 deaths of females from 3 and under 6 months of age.
100 deaths of males to 90·8 deaths of females from 6 and under 12 months of age.
100 deaths of males to 84·66 deaths of females under 12 months of age.

Causes of Death.—The following statement gives the classification of diseases, with the per-centage of death in each class and order to the total mortality in 1885 and 1886 :—

Class I.—Specific Febrile or Zymotic Diseases.

	1885.	1886.
Order 1. Miasmatic diseases - - -	5·66	6·78
„ 2. Diarrhœal diseases - - -	6·56	7·42
„ 3. Malarial diseases - - -	0·06	0·08
„ 4. Zoogenous diseases - -	0·02	0·00
„ 5. Venereal diseases - - -	0·26	0·18
„ 6. Septic diseases - - -	1·84	1·19
Total class -	14·40	15·65

Class II.—Parasitic Diseases.

1885 - - - - -	0·43
1886 - - - - -	0·60

Class III.—Dietetic Diseases.

1885 - - - -	1·22
1886 - - - - -	1·42

Class IV.—Constitutional Diseases.

1885 - - - - -	16·05
1886 - - - - -	16·33

Class V.—Developmental Diseases.

1885	7·50
1886	7·06

Class VI.—Local Diseases.

	1885.	1886.
Order 1. Diseases of nervous system	11·26	10·69
„ 2. Diseases of organs of special sense	0·15	0·10
„ 3. Diseases of circulatory system	6·73	6·63
„ 4. Diseases of respiratory system	12·92	12·86
„ 5. Diseases of digestive system	9·92	9·34
„ 6. Diseases of lymphatic system and ductless glands	0·08	0·18
„ 7. Diseases of urinary system	2·19	1·81
„ 8. Diseases of reproductive system—		
(*a*) Of organs of generation	0·23	0·33
(*b*) Of parturition	1·58	1·27
„ 9. Diseases of organs of locomotion	0·51	0·26
„ 10. Diseases of integumentary system	0·38	0·29
Total class	45·95	43·76
Class VII.—Violence.		
Order 1. Accident or negligence	7·46	8·15
„ 2. Homicide	0·15	0·08
„ 3. Suicide	0·89	1·08
„ 4. Execution	—	—
Total class	8·50	9·31

Class VIII.—Ill-defined and Not-specified Causes.

1885	5·95
1886	5·87

Specific Febrile or Zymotic Diseases.—The deaths from these diseases in 1886 amounted to 960, equal to a rate of 165 per 100,000 persons living. This rate of mortality is considerably less than that which obtains in England or in the other Australasian Colonies. In England these deaths in 1885 were in the proportion of 251 per 100,000 persons living; in Victoria, in 1885, the proportion was 270; in Queensland, 465; in South Australia, in 1886, 221; and in Tasmania, in 1886, 185.

The following are the diseases in the zymotic class which cause the greatest mortality, and the number of deaths from each disease, in New Zealand, in each of the past five years:—

	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Measles	86	15	31	1	49
Scarlet fever	153	26	17	12	7
Diphtheria	142	85	112	104	78
Whooping-cough	68	246	167	91	132
Diarrhœal diseases	377	509	208	399	455
Puerperal fever	14	9	20	48	33
Enteric or typhoid fever	110	167	104	118	123

One formidable disease, small-pox, belonging to this class, does not appear as a cause of death in New Zealand. During the past year it has appeared at times in one or other of the Australian Colonies, but the precautions taken against its introduction into the Colony have proved effectual. It may not be inappropriate here to note the extent of protection against this disease that is afforded by vaccination.

The following shows the number of children who were successfully vaccinated in each quarter of 1886 :—

Quarter.	Under 1 Year of Age.	Between 1 and 14 Years of Age.	Total.
March - - - - -	2,520	501	3,021
June - - - - -	2,893	534	3,427
September - - - -	2,188	454	2,642
December - - - -	3,236	935	4,171
Totals -	10,837	2,424	13,261

As the births in 1886 numbered 19,299, the children under 1 year of age vaccinated numbered 56 per 100 children born. As nearly 10 per cent. of the children born died under 1 year of age, it would appear as if about 34 per cent. of the children remained unvaccinated. This proportion is, however, somewhat reduced by vaccinations after 12 months of age.

The diarrhœal diseases were chiefly fatal among children. Of the 455 deaths, 416 were of children under 5 years of age, of which 340 were infants under 1 year. Only 39 were deaths of persons over 5 years of age.

In last year's report it was stated that the increased mortality from diarrhœal diseases in 1885 on that in 1884 may be attributed to the higher mean maximum temperature of the air in the shade in the (then) past year, viz., 1885. The further increase in the mortality from diarrhœal diseases in 1886 was synchronous with a still higher average mean maximum temperature during the three summer months in 1886 than in 1885, as follows :—

	1885.				1886.			
	Jan.	Feb.	March.	Mean.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	Mean.
Auckland - -	71·4	74·2	70·4	72·00	75·3	76·0	72·0	74·43
Wellington - -	67·0	69·0	66·0	67·33	70·2	70·4	68·5	69·70
Lincoln - - -	67·1	69·9	67·3	68·10	70·6	74·4	66·3	70·43
Dunedin - -	62·3	66·3	64·8	64·46	66·3	66·5	60·6	64·46
Average of means -	—	—	—	67·98	—	—	—	69·75

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Measles was much more prevalent in 1886 than in 1885, the deaths having been 49 in 1886 and 1 in 1885. Of the deaths in 1886, 32 occurred in the Canterbury District, 14 in the Wellington District, and 3 in the Hawke's Bay District.

Diphtheria caused 78 deaths in 1886, against 104 in 1885. Of the 78 deaths, 26, or one third, occurred in the Wellington District. Of these, about one third (9) occurred in the borough of Wellington; thus, about one ninth of the total deaths from diphtheria occurred in that borough. Otago was next on the list with 16 deaths, and Canterbury followed with 15.

The deaths from typhoid fever numbered 123 in 1886, against 118 in 1885. Of these deaths in 1886, 55, or nearly 45 per cent. (44·7), occurred in the Auckland District. The greatest mortality, both numerically and proportionately to the population, occurred in this district. The number of deaths from this cause in 1886, in proportion to the 1,000 of population in each provincial district, was as follows:—

Auckland - - - - -	0·42
Taranaki - - - - -	0·11
Hawke's Bay - - - -	0·28
Wellington - - - -	0·32
Marlborough - - - -	0·27
Nelson - - - - -	0·07
Westland - - - - -	0·12
Canterbury - - - -	0·08
Otago - - - - -	0·11

The mortality was thus, proportionately to the population, six times greater in the Auckland District where the rate was highest, than in the Nelson District which yielded the lowest rate.

Of these deaths in the Auckland District, 17, or nearly one third, occurred in the borough of Auckland; but of those in the Wellington District, 13, over one half, occurred in the borough of Wellington.

Dietetic Diseases.—The deaths from these diseases included 36 attributed directly to intemperance. During the 10 years 1877 to 1886 inclusive the deaths of 257 males and 75 females, a total of 332, were directly attributed to this cause. These by no means exhaust the number of deaths that are really caused by the abuse of alcoholic drinks, as many deaths which are classified under the special disease which was given as the immediate cause may be primarily attributed to habits of intemperance.

Constitutional Diseases.—This class includes the disease that causes the largest number of deaths, viz., phthisis; 291 males and 209 females, a total of 500 persons, succumbed to this complaint in 1886. The mortality caused thereby amounted to 8·15 per 100 of the total number of deaths, equivalent to an average of one in every 12 deaths. Large as is this proportion to the total number of deaths, the death-rate from phthisis is much less in New Zealand than in England, or than in either of the other Austra-

lasian Colonies except Western Australia. The following were the several rates in the years named :—

	Year.	Proportion per 100 Deaths.	Proportion per 10,000 Persons living.
New Zealand - - - -	1886	8·15	8·59
England - - - -	1885	9·21	17·15
Queensland - - -	1885	9·51	18·62
New South Wales - - -	1885	7·05	11·58
Victoria - - - -	1885	9·64	14·19
South Australia - - -	1886	8·00	10·83
Western Australia - - -	1885	4·83	8·51
Tasmania - - - -	1886	7·18	10·48

The death-rate from phthisis in this and, doubtless, also in each of the other Australasian Colonies is materially increased by the deaths of persons who have arrived in a diseased condition or with strong predisposition to that disease.

The following table gives the ages, with the length of residence, of those who died from phthisis in 1886 :—

Length of Residence in the Colony.	Age at Death.										
	Under 5 years.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 55.	55 to 65.	65 to 75.	75 years and upwards.	Total.
Males.											
Under 1 month - -	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
1 to 6 months - -	—	—	—	5	2	—	1	—	—	—	8
6 to 12 months - -	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	5
1 to 2 years - - -	—	—	—	3	6	—	1	—	—	—	10
2 to 3 years - - -	—	—	—	2	10	4	1	—	—	—	17
3 to 4 years - - -	—	—	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	—	7
4 to 5 years - - -	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
5 to 10 years - - -	—	—	—	4	11	9	6	1	—	—	31
10 to 15 years - -	—	—	—	8	9	11	3	4	2	—	37
15 to 20 years - -	—	—	—	1	2	5	4	—	—	—	12
20 to 25 years - -	—	—	—	—	2	19	20	4	2	—	47
25 years and upwards -	—	—	—	—	3	7	9	7	4	—	30
Not known - - -	—	—	—	2	2	6	5	—	—	—	15
Born in Colony - -	5	2	4	34	13	9	—	—	—	—	67
Totals - - -	5	2	4	64	68	73	51	16	8	—	291

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Length of Residence in the Colony.	Age at Death.										
	Under 5 years.	5 to 10.	10 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 55.	55 to 65.	65 to 75.	75 years and upwards.	Total.
Females.											
1 to 6 months	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
6 to 12 months	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
1 to 2 years	—	—	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	6
2 to 3 years	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	5
3 to 4 years	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	7
4 to 5 years	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
5 to 10 years	—	—	—	7	8	4	1	—	1	—	21
10 to 15 years	—	—	2	5	18	9	3	1	—	—	38
15 to 20 years	—	—	—	4	2	5	—	—	—	—	11
20 to 25 years	—	—	—	2	7	9	4	2	2	1	27
25 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	4	2	4	3	1	—	14
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Born in Colony	7	6	10	36	11	4	—	—	—	—	74
Totals	7	6	12	61	59	38	14	6	5	1	209
Totals both sexes	12	8	16	125	127	111	65	22	13	1	500

Of the above deaths, 141, or 28 per cent., were of persons stated to have been born in the Colony; of the rest, 55, or 11 per cent., were of persons who had not resided three years in the Colony, and may probably, therefore, be considered to have arrived in a diseased condition.

Whether phthisis is, according to the contention of some medical gentlemen, either wholly or to a large extent an infectious disease, or whether wholly or chiefly attributable to heredity, constitutional weakness, climatic changes, inattention to sanitary requirements, or other causes, does not affect the fact that a number of persons who died from phthisis arrived in the Colony in a diseased state or highly predisposed thereto, and that the death-rate from phthisis was materially increased in consequence. The short length of residence and the generally lingering character of the disease sufficiently attest this.

It is not the part of a statist to discuss scientific theories, but rather to tabulate ascertained facts in form that may be used for the consideration of various important questions of public interest.

It can hardly be disputed that climatic influences are important factors in combating this fell disease, and the value of these comparative statistics largely consists in the light they may afford as to the greater or less probability of a liability to this disease in any one country. If no notice were taken of the increase to the death-rate by the arrival of phthisical patients the results might be seriously misleading, as a country having a specially salubrious

climate might, in consequence of an exceptionally high special death-rate caused by the attractions afforded by it to large numbers of diseased or delicate persons, many of whom succumb to the disease, have the appearance of being insalubrious.

The deaths from cancer in 1886 were 214 in number. The mortality, both numerically and proportionately, was the highest on record in the Colony. The following shows the deaths per 10,000 persons living in New Zealand for the years given :—

Year.	New Zealand.	England.
1879 - - - -	2·63	5·02
1880 - - - -	2·80	5·14
1881 - - - -	2·69	5·20
1882 - - - -	2·89	5·32
1883 - - - -	2·99	5·46
1884 - - - -	3·46	5·60
1885 - - - -	3·13	5·66
1886 - - - -	3·68	—

In each country the increase in the mortality from cancer is very marked, but the increase is more rapid in the Colony than in England. In the period 1879–85 the increase in England was at the rate of not quite 13 per cent., and during the same period in New Zealand it was at the rate of 19 per cent.

Local Diseases.—The diseases in this class caused 2,685 deaths in 1886, or 43·76 of the total number against 2,794, equal to 45·95, in 1885.

Of these deaths, diseases of the nervous system caused 656, but the mortality was much greater among the males than among the females, 375 deaths of males to 281 of females, being in the proportion, among equal numbers living, of 119 males to 106 females.

Diseases of the circulatory system caused 407 deaths. Of these, 246 were of males and 161 of females, the deaths having been, in equal numbers living, in the proportion of 78 males to 60 females.

Diseases of the respiratory system were also proportionately more fatal among males than females. Of the total number of deaths, 789, those of males amounted to 453 and those of females to 336, or, in equal numbers living, in the proportion of 144 males to 125 females.

The diseases of parturition caused 78 deaths. To these should be added 33 deaths from puerperal fever, pyæmia, and peritonitis, given in the septic order of zymotic diseases, to estimate the actual mortality incidental to childbearing, the total being 111 deaths, being in the proportion of 57·51 deaths of mothers to every 10,000 living children born, or 1 mother to every 173 births. This mortality was much less than in 1885, in which year on an average 1 mother died to 137 children born alive; it was, however, much higher than the earlier in years of the past

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decade. In 1877 1 mother died to 228 births. With some annual fluctuations, there was a steady increase in the mortality to the end of 1885.

The mortality of mothers in England in 1885 from similar causes amounted to 49·64 per 10,000 living births, in the proportion of 1 mother deceased to every 201 children born; but in England 54 per cent. of these deaths occurred from puerperal fever, while in New Zealand only 30 per cent. occurred from that cause. The deaths in New Zealand from those immediate causes incidental to childbirth that might have been to a large extent averted by care, medical advice, &c., were proportionately about twice as numerous as in England, viz., 40 per 10,000 of births in New Zealand to 22 per 10,000 in England.

Violent Deaths.—The deaths that occurred in this class numbered 571, in the proportion of 9·31 per 100 deaths from all causes, in 1886, against 517, or a proportion of 8·50 per 100 deaths, in 1885.

The deaths that occurred from accidental causes numbered 500, equivalent to a rate of 8·59 per 10,000 persons living. The proportion was far higher among the males than the females. The accidental deaths of males were 391 in number, at the rate of 12·45 per 10,000 living; those of females were 109, at the rate of 4·07 per 10,000 living.

Of the accidental deaths, 154 were caused by drowning, 114 of males and 40 of females.

The following were the number of deaths from external or violent causes in the ten years 1877–86:—

	Males.	Females.
Accidents or Negligence:—		
Fractures, &c.	1,504	135
Gunshot wounds	101	4
Cut, stab	45	23
Burns and scalds	284	200
Poison	72	43
Drowning	1,313	219
Exposure	38	3
Suffocation	164	92
Otherwise	216	52
Total accidents	3,737	771
Homicide—		
Murder or manslaughter	43	41
Battle wounds	1	0
Suicide—		
Gunshot wounds	92	4
Cut, stab, &c.	71	10
Poison	62	18
Drowning	44	16
Hanging	116	16
Unspecified	23	4
Total suicides	408	68
Execution—		
Hanging	6	0

Hospitals.—There are 37 of these institutions in the Colony, in which beds can be made up for 870 male and 333 female patients, with an aggregate amount of 1,633,522 cubic feet in the sleeping wards, or an average of 1,357, cubic feet per bed.

4,288 male and 1,442 female patients were admitted during the year 1886; 503 males and 156 females were remaining at the end of the year; 6,381 persons received relief as inmates during the year. The deaths in the hospitals were 548, of which 425 were of males and 123 of females, being in the proportion of 8·85 deaths of males per 100 male inmates, and 7·79 deaths of females per 100 female inmates; the rate on both sexes having been 8·59 per cent., against a similar death-rate in 1885 of 9·57 per cent.

Of the 6,381 inmates, 1,144 were suffering from accidents, of whom 50 died; and 18 from attempts at suicide, of whom 4 died.

In addition to the inmates, 9,286 persons are stated to have received relief at these hospitals as out-patients. The actual number of persons who received outdoor relief is greater, but at some hospitals no returns of those persons are kept, and the numbers cannot consequently be given.

Benevolent Asylums.—There are 8 institutions of this character, exclusive of orphan asylums, established for the support of certain indigent and aged members of the community.

These asylums contain beds for 341 males and 155 females. The numbers of inmates who received relief in the year were 813, viz., 519 males and 294 females; the numbers remaining at the end of the year were 340 males and 143 females, or very nearly as many as there was accommodation for. In addition outdo relief was afforded by these asylums to 3,209 persons, including children.

Orphan Asylums.—There are 6 institutions of this class in the Colony. Two are maintained by District Hospitals Boards, one by the Church of England authorities, and three by clergy of the Roman Catholic Church. These receive orphans, destitute and other children, at the charge of the State, who may be committed to them by a resident magistrate. Exclusive of the children so committed, 26 male and 22 female orphans were received during the year, and 128 males and 80 females were inmates at the end of the year, relief having been afforded during the year to 150 male and 119 female inmates. The orphanages that received committed children are for that purpose constituted industrial schools, and the particulars of the committed children are given in the table relating to those schools.

Lunatic Asylums.—There are 7 public asylums in the Colony maintained wholly or in part out of the public revenue, and 1 private asylum licensed by the Governor for the reception of lunatics.

There were at the end of 1886 1,009 male and 604 female patients remaining at these asylums; of these, 121 males and 80 females were supposed to be curable, 883 males and 517 females were supposed to be incurable, and 5 males and 7 females were out of the asylums on trial.

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The number of lunatics at the end of the year was thus 1,613, a number equivalent to 27·37 per 10,000 of the population (exclusive of Maoris), or 1 in every 365 persons living.

The increase in lunacy is evident from the following:—

In 1878 there was on an average 1 lunatic to every 480 persons.
In 1881 there was on an average 1 lunatic to every 437 persons.
In 1884 there was on an average 1 lunatic to every 389 persons.
In 1885 there was on an average 1 lunatic to every 375 persons.
In 1886 there was on an average 1 lunatic to every 365 persons.

The deaths in the asylums in the year numbered 76, being in the proportion of 4 per 100 inmates during the year.

Industrial Schools.—These schools are of three classes: (1) Those maintained by the Government, 4 in number; (2) a local school maintained by the local authorities; and (3) schools, 3 in number, maintained by the Roman Catholic clergy, but who receive 1*s.* day from the Government for every child committed to them under the Industrial Schools Act.

255 children of both sexes were committed to these schools in 1886, but of these, 7 were received as orphans under benevolent-asylum regulations. Of the 255, 165 were boys and 90 were girls.

Apart from the 7 orphans, 123 were committed as being destitute or for vagrancy, 42 for residing in disreputable places, 25 for being uncontrollable by parents, 47 on account of offences committed, and 11 were transferred from other schools and from gaol.

There were 1,609 children belonging to the schools at the end of the year, of whom 945 were boys and 664 were girls. The actual inmates, however, were then only 583, the rest having been boarded out, at service with friends, or absent from other causes.

Meteorology.—In a country extending over 11½ degrees of latitude the variations in temperature and climate may be expected to be considerable. Observations are taken daily at 9.30 a.m. at five different stations, viz., at Auckland, in the northern part of the North Island; at Rotorua, in the hot springs district; at Wellington, at the extreme south of the Northern Island; at Lincoln, in the Canterbury District, about midway in the Middle Island; and at Dunedin, in the southern district of the Middle Island.

The mean temperature in the shade for the year ranged from 59·1° at Auckland to 51·3° at Dunedin, but the maximum recorded temperature in the shade (91·0°) was not at Auckland but at Lincoln. The minimum (21·5°) was, however, recorded at Rotorua and the next lowest (23·0°) at Lincoln. The extreme range of temperature varied from 46·0° to 69·0°, but it was least in Auckland (46·0°) and next in Wellington (47·0°), the climates of the two places being largely affected by their relative situations and

liability to sea-breezes. The mean daily range of temperature was lowest in Wellington, 12·1°; next lowest in Auckland, 12·5°; and highest at Rotorua, 23·3°. At Dunedin it was 15·2°, and at Lincoln 17·1°.

The greatest rainfall during the year at either of these stations occurred at Wellington, but by far the greatest rainfall in the Colony occurs on the west coast of the Middle Island.

Rainfall at the following stations in 1886:—

	Inches.
Auckland - - - -	32·640
Rotorua - - - - -	51·790
Wellington - - - -	54·477
Lincoln - - - - -	35·287
Dunedin - - - -	52·632

The highest maximum velocity of wind in any 24 hours occured in Auckland, to wit, 813 miles, and the next highest, 700 miles, in Wellington. During the whole year there were only two absolutely calm mornings at Auckland, against 23 at Wellington, 45 at Rotorua, and 80 at Lincoln and Dunedin. The greatest number of gales of wind (57) occurred at Wellington, and the next greatest at Auckland (35).

PART III.—TRADE AND INTERCHANGE.

Shipping.—The shipping inwards at the various ports of the Colony amounted in 1886 to 725 vessels, of an aggregate of 502,572 tonnage, against 786 vessels, of 519,700 tonnage, in 1885. There was a decrease in the British shipping inwards with cargoes from 663 vessels, of 462,758 tonnage, in 1885, to 602, of 428,420 tonnage, in 1886; but an increase in the foreign shipping inwards with cargoes from 60 vessels, of 39,875 tonnage, to 71 vessels, of 57,058 tonnage.

Of the shipping inwards, 113 vessels, of 164,401 tonnage arrived from the United Kingdom; 452 vessels, of 262,727 tonnage, from the Australian Colonies and Tasmania; 97 vessels of 44,601 tonnage, from Fiji and other Pacific Islands (in which are included the mail steamers that arrive from San Francisco *viâ* the Sandwich Islands); 22 vessels, of 10,612 tonnage, from the United States; 17 vessels, of 6,450 tonnage from Mauritius; 4 vessels, of 4,151 tonnage, from India; 3 vessels, of 1,841 tonnage, from Java; 1 vessel, of 237 tonnage, from Singapore; 2 vessels, of 2,028 tonnage, from China; 5 vessels, of 2,650 tonnage, from Germany; and 9, of 2,874 tonnage, from the Southern Whale Fisheries.

The shipping inwards included 212 steamers, of 282,772 tonnage.

The shipping outwards consisted of 707 vessels, of 488,331 tonnage, being a decrease, as compared with 1885, of 73 in the number of vessels, and of 24,669 in the tonnage. Of the vessels, outwards, 205, of an aggregate tonnage of 279,735, were steam

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vessels, and 502, of 208,596 tonnage, were sailing vessels. All the steam vessels left with cargoes, but 78 sailing vessels, of 45,930 tonnage, left in ballast.

Of the steamers outwards, 23, of 59,596 tonnage, were British; 163, of 183,522 tonnage, were Colonial; and 18, of 34,902 tonnage, were American.

Registered Vessels.—There were 571 vessels, of an aggregate of 94,196 tons, on the register on the 31st December 1886. 27 vessels, of 6,016 tonnage, were added to the register during the year, and 53 vessels, of 7,707 tonnage, were struck off the register; there was thus a decrease during the year of 26 in the number of vessels on the register, and of 1,691 in the aggregate number of tons. In dealing separately with the classes of vessels, 16 sailing vessels, of 2,773 tonnage, were added to the register, and 44, of 6,831 tonnage, were struck off; only 9 steam vessels, of 876 tonnage, were struck off, against 11 steam vessels, of 3,243 tonnage, added to the register.

Of the vessels registered, 253 sailing vessels, of 13,900 tonnage, and 113 steam vessels, of 13,664 tonnage, were employed in the home (coastal) trade only; 57 vessels, of 13,941 tonnage, and 16 steamers, of 15,983 tonnage, were employed partly in the foreign and partly in the home trade; and 73 sailing vessels, of 28,102 tonnage, and 4 steam vessels, of 8,091 tonnage, were employed in the foreign trade only.

The aggregate number of the crews was 4,663 men and boys, of these, 2,070 were employed in coasting vessels.

Imports.—The total value of the imports in 1886 amounted to 6,759,013*l.*, a decrease on the value in 1885 of 720,908*l.* As the imports of specie amounted to 439,790*l.* in 1886 against 201,820*l.* in 1885, the decrease in 1886 in the value of imports, exclusive of specie, amounted to 958,878*l.*

The following shows the values of imports from different countries in 1885 and 1886 respectively, given in the order of the respective increase or decrease from each:—

	1885.	1886.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Europe (excepting United Kingdom)	27,647	64,591	36,944
China and Hongkong	153,609	170,044	16,435
Japan	1,704	7,333	5,629
Canada	1,421	2,311	890
Brazil	65	500	435
Africa	565	753	188
Whale Fisheries	5,858	8,688	2,830
			Decrease.
United Kingdom	5,227,551	4,481,101	746,450
United States	401,532	337,322	64,210
Australia and Tasmania	1,254,908	1,317,376	62,468
Mauritius	139,080	118,758	20,322
Philippine Islands, Java, and Singapore	49,475	42,774	6,701
India	129,630	121,580	8,050
Fiji and Pacific Islands	86,876	85,882	994

While the value of imports from the United Kingdom has fallen off by 746,450*l.*, or at the rate of 14 per cent., that from the Continent of Europe increased by 36,944*l.*, or at the rate of over 133 per cent. The value of imports from Germany, though comparatively small in amount, showed a large proportional increase, viz., from 16,375*l.* to 44,549*l.*, or at the rate of 171 per cent. In the various consular reports from different parts of the world attention has been drawn to the successful efforts made by German firms in extending their trade transactions, and to that extent in superseding the British manufactures by their own productions.

The values of certain principal articles imported, arranged in convenient groups, are given in detail for each of the past two years :—

	1885.	1886.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Drapery	1,089,640	872,689	216,951
Apparel and slops	216,680	208,852	7,828
Cotton piece goods	237,130	214,324	22,806
Boots and shoes	185,642	157,445	28,197
Woollens	119,231	104,993	14,238
Haberdashery	81,660	80,241	1,419
Hosiery	42,614	42,473	141
Hats and caps	39,172	35,848	3,324
Millinery	35,233	26,135	9,098
Linen manufactures	25,291	21,996	3,295
Silks	11,941	10,676	1,265
Totals	2,084,234	1,775,672	308,562
Agricultural implements	13,833	10,954	2,879
Iron rails and railway bolts and fastenings	39,110	7,038	32,072
Iron, other—pig, wrought, wire, &c.	384,523	333,186	51,337
Hardware and ironmongery	186,888	178,974	7,914
Railway plant	115,218	59,488	55,730
Tools, artificers'	36,131	37,531	*Incr. 1,400*
Sewing machines	29,024	18,563	10,461
Machinery	146,553	149,265	*Incr. 2,712*
Steel and steel rails	26,133	20,695	5,438
Cutlery	16,206	14,419	1,787
Totals	993,619	830,113	163,506
Sugar	337,671	354,251	*Incr. 16,580*
Tea	217,136	198,075	19,061
Totals	554,807	552,326	2,481
Spirits	222,556	177,184	52,169
Beer	102,229	74,942	26,287
Wine	66,745	57,873	*Incr. 1,128*
Tobacco	125,066	138,047	*Incr. 12,981*
Totals	516,596	448,046	68,550

	1885.	1886.	Decrease.
Paper - - - -	124,599	121,420	3,179
Printed books - - -	119,026	110,491	8,535
Stationery - - -	89,356	68,847	20,509
Totals -	332,981	300,758	32,223
Specie - - - -	201,820	439,790	*Incr.* 237,970
Coal - - - -	147,083	123,345	23,738
Bags and sacks - - -	103,298	100,765	2,533
Fruits - - - -	134,413	113,415	20,998
Fancy goods - - -	108,354	82,576	25,778
Oils - - - -	142,342	129,314	13,028

It will be observed that, with the six exceptions, there has been a decrease throughout in the value of the imports.

In the drapery class the decrease was greatest, 308,562*l.* Of the few items in which there was an increase the specie took the first place, with an increased import to the extent of 237,970*l.* The import of sugar increased by 16,580*l.*, and of tobacco by 12,981*l.* The value of machinery imported was greater by 2,712*l.* This was owing to a large increase in spinning and weaving machinery imported, from 11,643*l.* in value to 24,778*l.*, for use in the local factories.

There was a considerable decrease in the value of spirits and beer imported. The following are the values of spirits imported during the past seven years, and the amount per head of the mean population (exclusive of Maoris) :—

	£	s.	d.
1880 - - -	212,409 -	8	11
1881 - - -	286,359 -	11	7
1882 - - -	270,887 -	10	7
1883 - - -	223,340 -	8	5
1884 - - -	232,836 -	8	5
1885 - - -	222,556 -	7	10
1886 - - -	177,184 -	6	1

Excluding methylated and perfumed spirits, the following were the quantities cleared for home consumption, and the amount thereof per head of the population (exclusive of Maoris), for each of the past seven years :—

	Gallons cleared.	Gallons per Head.
1880 - - - -	553,402	1·167
1881 - - - -	571,829	1·159
1882 - - - -	587,239	1·153
1883 - - - -	576,058	1·088
1884 - - - -	551,762	0·999
1885 - - - -	507,810	0·899
1886 - - - -	477,352	0·820

The steady decrease in the consumption per head of the population is very noticeable, and although in the first two years this was accompanied by an actual increase in the quantity, yet since 1882 the decrease in the amount consumed has, year by year, decreased in quantity as well as proportionately to the population. The decrease in quantity in 1886 on that in 1885 was at the rate of over 5 per cent., and the decrease per head of the population was at the rate of 21 per cent.

The value of imports of wine per head of the population for each of the same years was as follows:—

	s.	d.
1880 - - - - -	2	2
1881 - - - - -	3	1
1882 - - - - -	3	8
1883 - - - - -	3	8
1884 - - - - -	2	6
1885 - - - - -	2	4
1886 - - - - -	2	0

The efforts of the advocates of temperance are apparently bearing fruit, although, doubtless, the decrease in consumption is partially due to a diminished purchasing power owing to the prevailing depression.

There was a decrease of imports in each provincial district, but the rate of decrease varied considerably in the different localities.

The decrease in each provincial district during the year 1886, as compared with the imports in 1885, were as follows:—

	Decrease.	Rate per Cent.
	£	
Auckland - - - -	139,582	7·36
Taranaki - - - -	1,666	7·64
Hawke's Bay - - -	3,192	1·69
Wellington - - - -	93,863	6·64
Marlborough - - -	7,460	26·76
Nelson - - - -	31,403	15·47
Westland - - - -	8,397	8·38
Canterbury - - - -	37,213	2·74
Otago - - - -	398,132	17·51

Exports.—The total value of exports for the year was 6,672,791*l.*, against 6,819,939*l.* in 1885, a decrease in 1886 to the extent of 147,138*l*, or, if the specie exported in each year be first deducted, a decrease of 204,349*l.*

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The value of the produce and manufactures of the Colony exported in 1886 was 6,386,682*l.*, against 6,591,911*l.* in 1885, a decrease of 205,229*l.*

With a considerably larger export in quantity of wool there was a diminished value to the extent of 132,304*l.*, and the low prices of grain caused a lessened production and smaller export.

The following table gives the principal articles of export for 1885 and 1886, with the export value of each, and the increase or decrease during the past year :—

Principal Articles exported.	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Wool - - - -	3,205,275	3,072,971	—	132,304
Tallow - - -	176,962	119,619	—	57,343
Hides - - - -	39,290	31,564	—	7,726
Sheep skins - - -	35,555	40,672	5,117	—
Leather - - -	47,054	36,167	—	10,887
Rabbit skins - - -	85,754	65,694	—	20,060
Gold - - - -	890,056	939,648	49,592	—
Coal - - - -	51,257	52,133	876	—
Flour - - - -	41,379	86,663	45,284	—
Bran and sharps - -	34,581	44,561	9,980	—
Wheat - - -	181,766	213,246	31,480	—
Barley - - -	33,693	20,561	—	13,132
Malt - - - -	20,517	14,778	—	5,739
Oats - - - -	260,395	200,830	—	59,565
Oatmeal - - -	16,909	13,744	—	3,165
Biscuits - - -	5,269	3,830	—	1,439
Potatoes - - -	38,625	23,735	—	14,890
Hops - - - -	8,346	6,753	—	1,593
Grass seed - - -	32,687	44,960	12,273	—
Butter - - -	102,387	105,537	3,150	—
Cheese - - -	35,742	45,657	9,915	—
Bacon and hams - -	19,761	34,308	14,547	—
Salt beef and pork - -	27,848	19,045	—	8,803
Preserved meats - -	81,401	47,426	—	33,975
Frozen meat - - -	373,857	427,193	53,336	—
Soap - - - -	3,877	3,156	—	721
Fungus - - -	11,095	10,470	—	625
Kauri gum - - -	299,762	257,653	—	42,109
Phormium - - -	16,316	15,922	—	394
Timber, sawn and hewn -	141,355	137,905	—	3,450
Timber, logs - - -	16,005	5,603	—	10,402

Export of Wool.—The value of the wool exported decreased from 3,205,275*l.* in 1885 to 3,072,971*l.* in 1886, but the quantity exported increased from 86,507,431 lbs. to 90,853,744 lbs.

The annual production of wool can be best estimated by taking the exports for the twelve months prior to the 30th September in any year, that is, immediately preceding the commencement of

the shearing. The following were the exports for the last ten years ending respectively on the 30th September :—

	lbs.
1877 - - - -	56,520,278
1878 - - - -	62,166,251
1879 - - - -	62,644,497
1880 - - - -	62,586,189
1881 - - - -	60,477,151
1882 - - - -	64,402,712
1883 - - - -	72,842,949
1884 - - - -	77,022,894
1885 - - - -	78,174,034
1886 - - - -	89,485,757

The amount of wool purchased in 1886 for use at the various woollen mills in the Colony amounted to 1,879,999 lbs. This quantity added to the export for the twelve months would raise the wool produce during the period to 92,773,743 lbs.

Gold exported.—The gold exported in 1886 amounted to 235,578 oz., of the value of 939,848*l.*, an increase on the exports in the previous year of 12,846 oz. in quantity and 49,592*l.* in value.

The amount entered for duty for exportation, which may be considered as better representing the produce of the goldfields for the year, was 227,079 oz., of 903,569*l.* value.

The following shows the value of the produce from the goldfields in each provincial district entered for duty in 1885 and 1886 :—

	1885.	1886.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Auckland - - - -	170,416	128,140	42,276
Wellington - - -	—	169	*Incr. 169*
Marlborough - - -	2,159	1,451	708
Nelson and Westland - -	481,662	456,266	25,396
Otago - - - -	294,378	317,543	*Incr. 23,165*
Totals - -	948,615	903,569	45,046

The total value of gold entered for duty from the first discovery thereof to the 31st December 1886 was 43,231,476*l.*

Exports of Wheat and Oats.—The export of wheat in 1886 amounted to 1,251,622 bushels, against 1,359,119 bushels in 1885,

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a decrease of 107,497 bushels. The effect of the reduction in price of wheat—that is, in the decrease of wheat cultivation, and consequently in the exports, is shown by a comparison with the amount exported in 1883 :—

	Bushels exported.	Average per Bushel in preceding Year on the declared Value.
		s. d.
1883 - - - -	4,897,540	4 7·4
1886 - - - -	1,251,622	2 8·1

As the declared value on the exports in 1886 gave an average of 3*s.* 4·9*d.* per bushel, an increased export of wheat may reasonably be expected in the current year 1887. This is borne out by the results of the collection of the agricultural statistics in the early part of February 1887, which gives an estimated production of wheat greater by 2,055,353 bushels than that in the previous year.

The export of oats in 1886 amounted to 1,992,659 bushels, against 2,817,000 bushels in 1885, a decrease of 824,341 bushels. As the production in 1887 was estimated at 3,369,593 more bushels than that in 1886, a considerable increase of exports in 1887 may also be expected.

Exports of Frozen Meat.—The expansion of trade in these exports still continues, and may be expected to do so. The amount and value of these exports were greater in 1886 than in any of the previous years. The increase in quantity in 1886 was at the rate of 16·7 per cent. on the exports in 1885, and in value 14·3 per cent.

The following were the quantities and declared values of these exports for the past five years :—

	Cwt.	£
1882 - -	15,244 -	19,339
1883 - -	87,975 -	118,328
1884 - -	254,069 -	345,090
1885 - -	296,473 -	373,857
1886 - -	346,055 -	427,193

Exports of Butter and Cheese.—The declared value of the exports of these articles was greater in 1886 than in 1885, although

the increase was, as regards the export of butter, small compared with that in 1885 over the exports in 1884 :—

Exported.	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£	£	£
Butter - - - -	66,593	102,387	105,537
Cheese - - - -	25,074	35,742	45,657

Value of Exports from different Ports.—The following table gives the value of the exports from each of the ports for the years 1885 and 1886, with the increase or decrease in the past year :—

——	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Lyttelton - -	1,684,599	1,760,793	76,194	—
Wellington - -	1,287,481	1,372,781	85,300	—
Dunedin - -	1,248,482	1,276,966	28,484	—
Auckland - -	1,035,125	830,765	—	204,350
Napier - - -	660,997	581,881	—	79,116
Oamaru - -	230,742	225,597	—	5,145
Invercargill and Bluff -	279,055	222,212	—	56,823
Timaru - -	158,014	185,408	27,394	—
Poverty Bay - -	86,283	70,684	—	15,599
Kaipara - -	63,327	58,080	—	5,247
Whangaroa - -	17,791	15,166	—	2,625
Riverton - -	2,614	13,124	10,510	—
Thames -	2,805	9,763	6,958	—
New Plymouth -	487	9,560	9,073	—
Mongonui - -	5,355	9,174	3,819	—
Greymouth - -	6,247	7,518	1,271	—
Nelson - -	3,856	6,898	3,042	—
Hokianga - -	13,338	5,322	—	8,016
Picton - - -	5,510	3,858	—	1,652
Hokitika - -	2,758	3,055	297	—
Russell - -	12,960	2,946	—	10,014
Wanganui - -	11,713	940	—	10,773
Foxton - -	400	300	—	100

Value of Total Trade.—The total trade of the Colony for the year 1886 amounted to 13,431,804*l.*, a decrease on that for the year 1885 of 958,056*l.* The trade amounted to 23*l.* 1*s.* 5·8*d.* per head of the population exclusive of Maoris, or 21*l.* 10*s.* 5·4*d.* per head including the Maoris. An allowance should be made on their account chiefly on account of the consumption of imports by them, their exports being principally confined to the gum they may collect. In proportion to numbers, their consumption of imports is nothing like as great as that of the rest of the population, but there is no means of exactly adjusting the proportion.

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The trade with the United Kingdom amounted to 9,068,535*l.* a decrease to the extent of 1,065,923*l.* This trade was 67·5 per cent. of the total trade.

The trade with New South Wales amounted to 1,398,962*l.*, an increase on that in 1885 of 135,137*l.*; that with Victoria to 1,271,694*l.*, an increase of 227,265*l.*; that with Queensland to 128,289*l.*, an increase of 47,491*l.*; that with Tasmania to 137,205*l.*, an increase of 22,313*l.*; that with Western Australia to 18,790*l.*, an increase of 6,593*l.*; and that with South Australia amounted to 68,270*l.*, being a decrease of 20,655*l.*

The total trade with Australia and Tasmania thus amounted to 3,023,210*l.*, being an increase on the trade in 1885 to the extent in value of 418,444*l.*

The direct total trade with the United States fell in value from 806,400*l.* in 1885 to 584,722*l.* in 1886, a decrease of 221,678*l.*

The value of the total trade with Fiji and the Pacific Islands was 190,631*l.*, or less than that in 1885 by 725*l.*; that with China and Hongkong was 179,261*l.*, an increase of 11,712*l.*; that with India was 127,599*l.*, a decrease of 2,767*l.*; and that with Mauritius was 118,834*l.*, a decrease of 22,857*l.*

The imports and exports per head of the mean population (exclusive of the Maoris) in the years 1884, 1885, and 1886 were as follow:—

	1884.	1885.	1886.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Imports - - -	13 17 4	13 4 9	11 12 2·7
Exports - - -	12 16 8	12 1 4¾	11 9 3·1

or, including the Maoris, in 1886, imports, 10*l.* 16*s.* 7·3*d.*; exports 10*l.* 13*s.* 10·1*d.*

There has been a considerable reduction in the value per head of both imports and exports in recent years. The reduction in value of imports is largely attributable to the contraction in expenditure of loan money by the Government, and the smaller amount of capital sent to the Colony for investment, as well as the reduction in the prices of imported articles. The smaller values of the exports are due to lower prices obtained for our produce; in the case of grain causing a diminished production, and in other directions accompanied with a considerably larger production. It was shown last year that, if the values of grain and wool had been the same in 1885 as in 1875, the exports would have been worth more by 4*l.* 6*s.* per head of the mean population.

Post Offices: Letters.—There were 1,089 post offices in the Colony at the end of 1886, there having been an increase in the

number during the year of 78. 18,188,144 letters were posted during the year, and 19,896,448 delivered; a total posted and delivered of 38,084,592, being an increase of 2,254,737 on the number in 1885. The post-cards posted numbered 741,611, an increase of 75,400 during the year.

Newspapers.—6,844,838 newspapers were posted and 7,479,209 delivered, an increase of 296,330 on the number posted and a decrease of 206,161 on the number delivered in 1885.

Registered Letters.—The number of letters registered in the Colony was 110,152, against 106,173 in 1885.

Dead Letters.—The number of unclaimed letters in 1886 was 103,083, being an increase of 6,132 on the number in the previous year. Of these letters, 6,600 were destroyed, 251 were reissued, and the rest were returned.

The total value of order cheques, drafts, notes, cash, and stamps found in letters opened in the Dead Letter Office amounted to 3,264*l.* 16*s.* 8½*d.*, against a corresponding value in 1885 of 5,243*l.* 11*s.* 8½*d.* The enclosures were returned to the senders where practicable. In addition several watches and various articles of jewellery, &c., were found enclosed in letters that were opened.

Money Orders.—There were 284 money order offices open in December 1886. During the year 155,680 orders were issued, for the amount of 547,755*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, being a decrease on the issue in 1885 of 32,942 in the number and 33,640*l.* in the value. Of the orders issued in 1886, 113,598, for the amount of 412,276*l.* 3*s.*, were for payment in New Zealand; 27,389, for the amount of 87,904*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*, were for payment in the United Kingdom and foreign offices; and 14,693, for the amount of 45,574*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, were for payment in the Australian Colonies and other places. The number of orders issued outside the Colony which were paid in the Colony was 15,369, for the amount of 59,163*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*

Cost of Ocean Mail Services.—The cost of the various mail services between England and New Zealand was in each of the years 1885 and 1886 as follows:—

San Francisco Service.

	1885.			1886.		
Payments.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Subsidies and bonus to ocean companies - - -	32,828 7 0			23,803 13 6		
Light dues, interprovincial and other charges - -	7,459 8 1			6,610 8 0		
		40,287 15 1			30,414 1 6	
Receipts.						
Postages collected in England and in the Colony - -	26,762 10 4			28,375 5 9		
Payments by non-contracting Colonies - - -	13,947 17 1			4,535 8 11		
		40,710 7 5			32,910 14 8	
Profit to the Colony -		422 12 4			2,496 13 2	

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Direct Steam Service, New Zealand Shipping Company.

	1885.		1886.	
Payments.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To New Zealand Shipping Company, including bonus -	20,610 14 8		24,773 3 9	
Light dues and interprovincial services - -	4,436 0 0	25,046 14 8	3,936 0 0	28,709 3 9
Receipts.				
Postages collected in England and the Colony - -		18,494 0 11		17,638 14 1
Cost to the Colony -		6,552 13 9		11,070 9 8

Colombo-Brindisi and Suez-Brindisi Services.

	1885.		1886.	
Payments.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Victoria and New South Wales - - - -	2,313 17 6		2,024 15 8	
Intercolonial services, &c. -	252 6 10	2,566 4 4	285 2 9	2,309 18 5
Receipts.				
Postages collected in England and the Colony - -		1,515 14 2		1,381 18 2
Cost to the Colony -		1,050 10 2		928 0 3

The total amount of postages collected for all services was 46,772*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* in 1885, against 47,395*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.* in 1886, exclusive of the payments by non-contracting Colonies, which fell off by 9,401*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

Average Time of Delivery of Mails.—The average number of days in 1886 within which the mails were delivered between London and each of the under-mentioned ports in New Zealand were as follows:—

	San Francisco Service.	Direct Service.	P. and O. Mail Service.
London to Auckland - -	37·92	45·61	46·50
London to Wellington - -	39·46	43·23	47·35
London to Christchurch - -	—	42·38	46·08
London to Dunedin - -	41·08	41·69	45·00
London to Bluff - -	—	42·84	45·00

Electric Telegraph.—There were 4,546 miles of telegraph line open at the end of 1886, requiring 11,178 miles of wire. 1,836,266 messages were transmitted in the year, of which 1,583,717 were

private, having yielded a revenue of 88,385*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, and 252,549 were public, of a nominal cash value of 27,281*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

Telephones.—There were 10 telephone exchanges on the 31st March 1887. On that date there were 2,038 subscribers. The number of miles of wire erected was 1,105, representing an average of 43·3 chains for each subscriber.

PART IV.—FINANCE, ACCUMULATION, AND PRODUCTION.

Finance.

Revenue.—The general revenue of the Colony, received during the year ending the 31st December 1886, amounted to 3,688,016*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, of which 3,349,891*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* was ordinary revenue and 338,124*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* territorial.

Of the ordinary revenue, the receipts from customs amounted to 1,315,805*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, against 1,422,052*l.* received in 1885; the receipts from railways amounted to 1,001,113*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, against 1,016,925*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.* in 1885; and those from stamps (including postal and telegraph revenue) to 595,775*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, against 603,330*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.* in the previous year.

The property-tax collected in 1886 amounted to 296,382*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, and the beer duty to 53,352*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*

Customs Revenue.—The following were the amounts realised by this branch of the revenue in each of the past ten years :—

Year.	——	Increase.	Decrease.	Rate per Cent. of Increase or Decrease.
	£	£	£	
1877 - - -	1,224,906	18,115	—	1·50
1878 - - -	1,344,688	119,782	—	8·90
1879 - - -	1,237,259	—	107,429	7·98
1880 - - -	1,258,362	21,103	—	1·70
1881 - - -	1,421,609	163,247	—	12·97
1882 - - -	1,515,917	94,308	—	6·63
1883 - - -	1,414,182	—	101,735	6·71
1884 - - -	1,413,393	—	789	0·05
1885 - - -	1,428,809	15,416	—	1·09
1886 - - -	1,311,808	—	117,001	8·19

The above amounts of customs duties represent the actual collections in each year. They differ from those given in the statements of ordinary revenue, as the latter do not include the collections after bank hours on the last day of the year in that year's revenue.

Territorial Revenue.—The revenue received under this head in 1886 amounted to 338,125*l.*, against a revenue of 395,744*l.* in 1885. Of this revenue, the land sales for cash only amounted to 51,488*l.* in 1886, against 97,743*l.* in 1885.

Expenditure.—There are two classes of expenditure, viz., that out of revenue and that out of loans. The ordinary and territorial

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expenditure, chargeable against revenue, amounted in 1886 to 4,310,875*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*, being in excess of the similar expenditure in 1885 by 27,973*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*

The charges of the public debt entailed an expenditure of 1,753,243*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* The next largest item was 692,039*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* for the working and maintenance of the railways, and then the expenditure on account of public instruction, 376,920*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*

The expenditure on services charged to the loan account amounted to 1,583,723*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, of which 504,422*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* were spent on railway construction, 284,011*l.* on roads, 333,487*l.* on the purchase of district railways, and 137,519*l.* on lighthouses, harbour works, and defences. The expenditure on public building amounted to 92,452*l.*, and that on land purchases to 86,239*l.*

Revenue and Expenditure of General Government and Local Bodies.—Besides the revenue raised by the General Government, the county and borough councils, and town, road, river, harbour, and drainage boards levy rates and obtain revenue from other sources.

To give a just idea of the full cost of government to the people in the year 1886, and of the amount spent, the revenue and expenditure of the local bodies must be added to that of the General Government. This is done in the following table:—

Revenue.

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
General Government for the year ending 31st December 1886).*				3,688,016	4	11
Local bodies revenue (county and borough councils, town, road, river, and drainage boards, for the year ending 31st March 1887, and for the harbour boards for the year ending 31st December 1886) -	1,224,299	16	8			
Deduct amount of receipts from the General Government	342,431	16	10			
				881,867	19	10
Total revenue - - -				4,569,884	4	9
Receipts of local bodies, not revenue - - -				992,633	6	2
Total - - - -				5,562,517	10	11

* The revenue and expenditure of the General Government, as here given, exclude amounts received and expended out of loan. Except in the case of boroughs, it is impossible to separate the expenditure of the local bodies out of loan from that out of revenue.

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
General Government (for the year ending 31st December 1886).*				4,310,875	3	3
Local bodies (for periods *see* above), less loan expenditure of boroughs -	1,736,984	19	0			
Deduct payments made by General Government, as per contra -	342,431	16	10			
				1,394,553	2	2
Total - - - -				5,705,428	5	5

Public Debt.†—The public debt of the Colony on the 31st December 1886 amounted to 37,587,776*l.*; but, as the accrued sinking fund amounted to 3,469,264*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, the net indebtedness amounted to 34,118,511*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, equivalent to 57*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* per head of the population, exclusive of Maoris.

Railways.—The expenditure by the General Government on railways to the 31st March 1886 (including the cost of the purchase of the district railways in pursuance of the District Railways Purchasing Acts, 1885 and 1886) amounted to 12,978,429*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* This, with the sum of 1,104,281*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, being the valuation of the railway works constructed by the provinces, brought up the cost of the Government railways to 14,082,710*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* The number of miles of these railways open for traffic on the above date was 1,721 miles 52 chains.‡ The total cost of these open lines having been 13,017,567*l.*, the average cost per mile for the whole Colony was thus 7,561*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

The cash revenue for the year amounted to 998,768*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, a decrease on the revenue received in 1885 of 48,650*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* The expenditure during the year amounted to 699,072*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, or 69·99 per cent. of the revenue. The expenditure was in excess of that in the previous twelve months by 8,731*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, but during the year 108 additional miles were opened for traffic. The net cash revenue was at the rate of 2*l.* 6*s.* per centum on the total cost of the lines.

The following statement shows the number of miles open, the

* *See* note on preceding page.

† This does not include the debts due by the various local bodies, which amounted to 5,620,747*l.* on the 31st March 1887.

‡ According to statement of Public Works Department.

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number of train-miles travelled and passengers carried, also the goods traffic, for the two past years:—

——	Length open.	Train Mileage.	Passengers.	Goods and Live Stock.‡
1885–86 - - -	1,613	3,020,550	3,362,266†	1,856,733
1886–87* - - -	1,727	3,008,949	3,426,403†	1,783,524

* According to statement of Working Railways Department.
† Not including passengers who held season tickets. 11,821 season tickets were taken out in 1886–87.
‡ The equivalent tonnage for live stock has been given.

The cash revenue yielded an average of 592*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* per mile of railway for the year, and the expenditure amounted on an average to 414*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* The following statement gives the particulars of the revenue and expenditure for the two past years:—

——	Revenue.						Expenditure.	Net Revenue.	Percentage of Expenditure to Revenue.
	Passenger Fares.	Parcels and Luggage.	Goods and Live Stock.	Rents and Miscellaneous.	District Railways.	Total.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1885–86 - -	363,377	33,271	617,549	27,960	5,261	1,047,418	690,340	357,078	65·91
1886–87 - -	356,253	33,749	581,350	27,416	*	998,768	699,072	299,696	69·99

* Merged into the other railways in 1886–87.

The average revenue per mile of railway was 678*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* in 1885–86, and 592*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* in 1886–87. The average per train-mile was 6*s.* 11*d.* in 1885–86, and 6*s.* 7½*d.* in 1886–87. The average expenditure was 447*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* per mile of railway, and 4*s.* 6·85*d.* per train-mile in 1885–86, against 414*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* per mile of railway, and 4*s.* 7·76*d.* per train-mile, in 1886–87. In addition to the above railways there were 88 miles of private lines open during the year, viz., the Wellington and Manawatu Railway, 84 miles; and the Kaitangata Railway and Coal Company's Line, four miles. The particulars of the cost, and of the revenue and expenditure of these lines, are not included in the above statements.

Accumulation.

Banks.—The assets and liabilities shown in the table are the averages of the quarterly returns furnished under "The Banks and Bankers Act, 1880." The total average liabilities and assets

of the banks within the Colony for each of the past two years were as follows:—

——	1885.	1886.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Liabilities - -	11,130,244 0 6	11,603,194 4 10	472,950 4 4
Assets - -	18,811,567 16 10	19,041,827 8 6	230,259 11 8

The average amount of deposits not bearing interest, exclusive of the Government deposits, decreased from 3,452,687*l.* in 1885 to 3,190,722*l.* in 1886, or by 261,965*l.*; the deposits bearing interest increased from 6,009,952*l.* in 1885 to 6,804,820*l.* in 1886, or by 794,868*l.* There was thus an increase in the average deposits of both classes to the extent of 532,903*l.* The deposits bearing interest amounted to 68·1 per cent. of the total deposits, exclusive of those of the Government, against 63·5 per cent. in the previous year.

The following shows the average amount of notes in circulation, notes and bills discounted, and bullion and specie in the banks in each of the two years:—

——	1885.	1886.	Decrease.	Increase.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in circulation -	968,481	943,075	25,406	—
Notes and bills discounted	4,419,107	4,406,396	12,711	—
Specie and bullion -	2,101,783	2,177,544	—	75,761

The total paid-up capital at the end of the year was 5,750,000*l.*, and the aggregate amount of the reserve funds at the time the last dividend was declared amounted to 3,398,023*l.*

Post Office Savings Banks.—There were 277 of these savings banks at the end of 1886, an increase of 16 during the year.

The deposits received during the year amounted to 1,248,405*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, being less than the deposits received in 1885 by 92,595*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* The withdrawals during 1886 amounted to 1,336,287*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, being in excess of the withdrawals in 1885 by 71,981*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, and in excess of the deposits in 1886 by 87,881*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*

There remained open at the end of the year 74,871 accounts, against 69,957 at the end of 1885; but the total amount standing to the credit of all open accounts was 1,615,979*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, against 1,638,035*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* in 1885, a decrease of 22,056*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*; the average amount standing to the credit of each account having fallen from 23*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* at the end of 1885 to 21*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* at the end of 1886.

Ordinary Savings Banks.—There were seven banks of this class, not connected with the Post Office Savings Banks, in the

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Colony at the end of the year. The total of the amounts deposited during 1886 was 404,845*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, of which the sum of 173*l.* was deposited by Maoris. 414,020*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* (being in excess of the deposits by 9,174*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*) were withdrawn during the year. The number of persons having open accounts at the end of the year was 16,425, of whom 15 were Maoris.

The total amount to the credit of the depositors in these savings banks at the end of 1886 was 517,801*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.*, giving an average amount to the credit of each account of 31*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*

The total increase in the deposits in the three classes of banks during the year amounted to 431,133*l.*

Building Societies.—There were 40 registered building societies in the Colony on the 31st December 1886. Of these, 45 were of a permanent character and three were terminable. The extent of the transactions of these societies, and the summarised results of the returns made by them, can be best exhibited in a tabular form, and are shown below for the years 1885 and 1886. The following are the results:—

Shares and Members.

	1885.	1886.
	No.	No.
(*a.*) 2. Number of members holding investing shares	4,434	4,480
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
3. Aggregate value of such shares	495,051 17 9*	463,590 13 8
	No.	No.
(*b.*) 2. Number of members holding paid-up shares	818	949
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
3. Aggregate value of such shares	264,034 3 7	288,380 2 9
(*c.*) 3. Present aggregate value of advances (satisfied or borrowing shares)	1,029,033 11 3	1,011,959 18 11
Income.		
(*a.*) 1, 2. Investors' subscriptions and paid-up shares	129,121 13 2	385,552 9 5†
3. Shares advanced upon or redemptions on borrowing shares	277,611 19 0	
4. Deposits received	402,056 8 1	441,980 14 0
5. Interest	61,187 15 3	65,629 14 4
6. Other receipts	59,310 10 11	47,905 0 3
	929,288 6 5	941,067 18 0

* Excluding a stated value of 11*l.* 7*s.* per share on 695 shares in the Napier Society.

† Excluding an amount of 4*s.* per share per month on 103 shares in the Reefton Permanent Building Society. An amount of 1,374*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*, loans repaid to the Westport Permanent Building and Investment Society, is included.

	1885.			1886.		
Expenditure.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
(*b.*) 1. Withdrawals - - -	184,099	17	9	157,705	14	2
2, 3, 4. Advances - - -	356,879	13	1	275,795	2	8
5. Working expenses - -	14,224	18	5	14,316	16	5
6. Deposits repaid - - -	300,203	10	9	437,210	1	7
7. Other expenditure - -	100,085	15	2*	60,101	17	1
	955,493	15	2*	945,129	11	11
Assets.						
(*a.*) 1. Balance due on mortgages -	1,074,326	1	4	1,063,261	13	6
2. Amounts invested in other securities - - - -	63,328	3	10	74,151	11	3
3. Balance due by bankers, &c. -	24,725	14	5	29,568	5	5
	1,162,380	19	7	1,166,981	10	2
Liabilities.						
(*b.*) 1. To holders of shares, reserve fund, &c. - - -	794,386	7	4	781,769	15	5
2. To bankers - - -	12,225	14	5	18,222	3	4
3. To other creditors - -	13,418	9	2	10,321	3	1
4. To depositors - - -	346,215	3	6	355,266	18	4
	1,166,245	14	5	1,165,580	0	2

Joint Stock Companies.—Sixty-two companies were registered in this class during the year. Of these, 10 were for the establishing of dairy factories and 5 for mining purposes. The aggregate nominal capital of the 62 companies was 726,725*l.*

Production.

Crown Lands alienated.—39,964 acres of land were sold for cash during the year, the cash received having amounted to 43,836*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.* The lands absolutely disposed of without sale amounted to 185,764 acres, of which 41,410 acres constituted reserves set apart for public puposes; 34,724 acres were grants to Europeans or Natives under Native Reserves Act, or in fulfilment of engagements; and 107,567*l.* were granted to Natives or Europeans under the Native Lands Acts.

The total of land alienated from the foundation of the Colony to the 31st December 1886 amounted to 18,558,231 acres. This does not include the lands sold by Natives direct to Europeans, for which no Crown grants have been issued under the Native

* Including total expenditure of Commercial Building and Mutual Investment Society, Otago.

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Land Acts or after sale. Although the exact quantity so sold and which still remains without Crown grants cannot be ascertained, yet it is believed to be very small. Fuller tables have been given this year, so as to exhibit the transactions under each of the various systems in force for the disposal of Crown lands.

Before referring to the results of each system in detail, it has seemed desirable to present a short *précis* of the various systems established by law for dealing with Crown lands, and one has been prepared in this office for the purpose. As all publications issued on the subject have been somewhat lengthy and complex, this digest, although only dealing very shortly with the leading features of each system, may be found of value as presenting in a small compass, and in a form easily to be comprehended, the state of the law in reference to the sale or lease of Crown lands:—

System of Disposal of Crown Lands, 1886.

1. System of Immediate Payment (without restriction of area):—

   Town lands sold by auction; minimum upset price, 30*l.* per acre.
   Suburban lands, sold by auction; minimum upset price, 3*l.* per acre.
   Village land (sections under 1 acre), offered on application, at 5*l.* per section.
   Village lands (termed "small farms," 1 to 50 acres), offered on application, at not less than 1*l.* per acre.
   Rural lands, sold by auction or on application, up to 2*l.* per acre, according to quality.

2. Deferred-payment System (area restricted to 320 acres):—

   Suburban lands, sold at 4*l.* 10*s.* per acre.
   Rural lands, sold at not less than 1*l.* per acre, except in certain parts, where price may be less, according to quality.
   Village land, sections under 1 acre, and small farms, 1 to 50 acres, not less than 1*l.* per acre.

3. System of Lease for First Term of 30 Years, with Perpetual Right of Renewal at Intervals of 21 Years (area restricted to 640 acres, including other property held):—

   Leases of land set aside for this purpose are put up to public competition by tender at an upset rental of 5 per cent. on the capital value, usually 1*l.* per acre, with the right of purchase (if outside goldfields) after 6 and within 12 years, if conditions have been complied with.

4. Homestead System (area restricted to 200 acres per family or household):—

Only certain lands are open to selection for this purpose. No payment required. Only cost to settler that of survey.

5. Special Settlements:—

Any number of persons (not less than 25) may obtain, on approval, the privilege of selecting a block of land in which to settle adjacent to each other, but subject to all the conditions of the deferred-payment or perpetual-lease systems, as the case may be.

6. Village-homestead System (area restricted to 50 acres):—

Lands in suitable localities are let on perpetual lease, with an advance, bearing interest at 5 per cent. on sums up to 20*l.*, for erection of dwelling; and in forest lands a further sum up to 2*l.* 10*s.* per acre, on an area not exceeding 20 acres, for bush-felling, grassing, fencing, &c.

7. Agricultural Lease on Goldfields:—

In force in Otago. Permits of land being made available for agriculture, while liable to be taken for mining purposes. Upset price, £1 per acre.

8. Small Grazing Runs (area not exceeding 5,000 acres):—

Such runs are let by public auction for a term of 21 years, with right of renewal for a second term of 21 years. The lessee has the exclusive right of the natural pasturage, and may cultivate any or all of the area leased. At the end of the term of lease full valuation is allowed for improvements. The upset price is 2½ per cent. on capital value. Recent sales realised from 3*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* per acre.

9. Pastoral Runs:—

These comprise about 11,000,000 acres of natural pasturage, and are let in large areas of from 5,000 acres and upwards for terms not exceeding 21 years. The average rental is about 4*d.* an acre. Twelve months before a lease falls in the run is offered for sale by auction for another term. Valuation not exceeding three years' rental is allowed the outgoing tenant for improvements. There is no restriction as to the number of runs which may be leased by one person or a company.

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Land on deferred Payments.—52,711 acres were taken up under this system in 1886. The following statement gives the number taken up in each of the past seven years:—

	Acres.
1880 - - - - -	136,739
1881 - - - - -	109,769
1882 - - - - -	83,930
1883 - - - - -	138,414
1884 - - - - -	48,502
1885 - - - - -	58,722
1886 - - - - -	52,711

949,405 acres have been taken up from the commencement of the system to the 31st December 1886. Of these, 139,939 acres have been forfeited, and 293,464 acres have been finally alienated on completion of the required payments, leaving 516,002 at present in occupation, and for which payments are accruing.

Village Settlements.—The lands in these settlements are partially disposed of under the deferred-payment system and partly for cash. The transactions under this system have been included under the sales of land for cash or on deferred payments, but the details of the transactions are given in order to show the working of the system.

The number and area of selections under this system to the 31st December 1886 were as given hereunder:—

	No.	A.	R.	P.
Village sections for cash -	593	361	3	15
Village sections on deferred payments - -	227	129	3	16
Small farm sections for cash	389	2,739	0	19
Small farm sections on deferred payments - -	812	10,175	2	26
The freeholds acquired during the period were—				
Village sections -	98	62	2	6
Small farm sections -	236	3,054	1	13
The forfeitures in the same period were—				
Village sections -	63	41	1	5
Small farm sections -	79	962	2	1

Fifty village sections, of an area of 29 acres 3 roods 32 perches, were taken up for cash during the year, and 26, representing 14 acres and 24 perches, on deferred payments; 21 small farm selections, of an aggregate of 133 acres 3 roods 34 perches, were taken up for cash during the year; and 77, with a total area of 587 acres 3 roods 24 perches, on deferred payments.

Perpetual Leases.—308 holdings, representing 46,367 acres, were taken up under this system during the year. The total area occupied under perpetual lease at the end of 1886 was 93,868 acres 2 roods 13 perches, in 579 holdings, the average size of each holding between thus 162 acres.

Depasturing and other Leases.—The land held on depasturing leases (exclusive of small grazing runs) amounted to 10,736,738 acres at the end of 1886, yielding an annual revenue of 168,151*l.* The agricultural-lease holdings included 134,455 acres, with an aggregate rental of 9,888*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* 58,381 acres were leased for mining for minerals and other purposes (except gold-mining), yielding a rental of 10,507*l.*

Agricultural Statistics.—A collection is annually made in the month of February of the statistics of the various crops, &c. cultivated on holdings above one acre in extent. As the harvest is generally incomplete at the time of the collection, the time of harvesting varying much according to the position of the land, and being either accelerated or delayed by the differences in climate in various parts of the Colony, the estimates of crops obtained can only be considered as more or less approximate, according to the condition of the crop and the judgment of the farmer. Although there is no means of properly checking the estimates of produce given, it is believed that they are, on the whole, in excess of the actual results of the harvest.

The number of cultivated holdings over one acre in extent in February 1887 was 33,332, against 31,763 in 1886, an increase of 1,569. These do not include Maori cultivations.

The proportion of persons to each holding was 18·1 in 1886, and 17·68 in 1887.

The total extent of land in cultivation (including grass-sown land and land broken up, but not in crop) amounted to 6,845,177 acres, being an increase on the extent in 1886 of 176,257 acres; 81·13 per cent. of the land was in artificial grass, against 81·95 per cent. in 1886; and 9·67 per cent. was in grain crops, against 8·07 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion under grain crops varied greatly in different parts of the Colony. It was highest in Canterbury (17·63), and next highest in Otago (17·08), these being the chief grain-producing districts.

Wheat.—253,025 acres were under wheat in 1887, an increase of 79,134 acres on the area in 1886. The estimated produce in 1887 was 6,297,638 bushels, against an estimate in 1886 of 4,242,285 bushels, an increase of 2,055,353 bushels. Of this quantity, in 1887, 4,012,790 bushels were estimated as the result of the Canterbury harvest, and 1,696,000 as that of the Otago production.

An estimate has been made of the annual requirements of the population for home consumption and seed, in order that the amount of wheat available for export in any one year may be approximately ascertained. On account of the variations in the quantity of stocks in hand at the end of each year such an

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estimate can only be of value if extended over a series of years, and the mean results taken.

The following table shows the system adopted and the accruing results:—

Table showing the Amount of Wheat annually retained in the Colony.

Year.	Produce (including estimated Quantity of Maori-grown Wheat and Imports of Wheat and Flour*).	Exports of Wheat and Flour.*	Retained in the Colony.	Used as Seed at 2 Bushels per Acre.	Difference for Food Consumption.	Mean Population (including Maoris).	Proportion per Head for Total retained for Food Consumption.	
							For Food, &c.	Total retained.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Persons.		
1877 - -	4,374,620	906,543	3,468,077	486,812	2,981,265	451,943	6·60	7·66
1878 - -	6,537,770	1,897,354	4,640,416	529,722	4,110,694	467,000	8·80	9·94
1879 - -	6,272,914	2,580,798	3,692,116	540,396	3,151,720	491,886	6·41	7·51
1880 - -	7,801,892	3,147 586	4,654,306	649,898	4,004,408	518,275	7·73	8·98
1881 - -	8,264,167	3,918,107	4,346,060	731,430	3,614,630	537,579	6·72	8·08
1882 - -	8,360,295	3,721,812	4,638,483	781,636	3,856,847	552,991	6·91	8·39
1883 - -	10,329,907	5,195,703	5,134,204	755,412	4,378,792	572,539	7·65	8·97
1884 - -	9,934,101	2,885,390	7,048,711	540,086	6,508,625	595,411	10·93	11·84
1885 - -	6,950,854	1,596,820	5,354,034	347,782	5,006,252	615,757	8·13	8·66
1886 - -	4,290,826	1,675,201	2,615,625	506,050	2,109,575	624,086	3·38	4·19
							Mean.	Mean.
Totals -	73,117,346	27,525,314	45,592,032	5,869,224	39,722,808	5,427,467	7·32	8·42

* In equivalent bushels of wheat.

This gives a mean average consumption of 7·32 bushels of wheat per head of the population (including Maoris).

Oats.—There was a considerable increase in the past year both in the extent of land under oats and in the estimated produce. The area in February 1887 was 387,228 acres, against 329,488 in the previous year; and the estimated produce 11,973,295 bushels, against 8,603,702. The average produce per acre was estimated at 30·92 bushels per acre in 1887, against 26·11 in 1886. The districts of Canterbury and Otago are those in which the bulk of the oats is grown, the aggregate produce of these districts having been over 66 per cent. of the total crop; but while the area under wheat in the Canterbury district was nearly three times as great as that in Otago, the area under oats was nearly one third less. The oat crop in Canterbury in 1887 was estimated to yield 27·49 bushels per acre, and in Otago 33·65 bushels. The highest average estimated yield per acre was in the Marlborough District,

viz., 35·79 bushels, but the area in that crop was only 4,704 acres.

Barley.—There was a decrease of 13,068 acres in the quantity of land in barley in the season 1886–87, viz., 34,603 acres in 1886, and 21,535 in February 1887. The estimated produce fell from 896,816 bushels to 558,606, but the produce per acre remained about the same: 25·92 bushels in 1886, 25·94 in 1887.

Increase of Total Area in Grain Crop.—Last year a decrease in the total area of land under wheat, oats, and barley on that in the previous year to the extent of 126,558 acres, with a diminished produce to the extent of 6,690,329 bushels, had to be recorded. The returns of 1887 show a considerable reaction, the extent thrown out of grain crop having been nearly recovered, the total increase on last year's area having been 123,806 acres, but the total increase in the crop has only amounted to a recovery to the extent of 5,086,736 bushels.

Potatoes.—27,683 acres of land were under cultivation with potatoes, an increase on the area in the commencement of 1886 of 2,860 acres. The potato crop of 1887 was estimated to yield 134,965 tons, or an average of 4·88 tons per acre, against a produce in 1886 of 113,753 tons, or 4·58 tons per acre.

Turnips.—A small increase has to be noted in the extent of land under turnips and rape. In 1885 the area was 352,956 acres; in 1886, 316,171 acres; and in 1887, 318,653 acres.

Tobacco.—Only 10 acres were returned as under tobacco cultivation, against 34 in 1886, and 79 in 1885.

Gardens and Orchards.—22,885 acres were stated to have been in gardens and orchards in 1887, against 21,908 acres in 1886, and 20,254 in 1885. These do not include gardens if the holdings of which they comprise the whole or part do not exceed one acre.

Land in Sown Grasses.—The extent of land in sown grasses in 1887 was 5,553,781 acres, an increase during the year of 88,624 acres. Of this quantity, 2,800,903 acres had been previously ploughed, and 2,752,878 acres not previously broken up had only been surface sown.

Live Stock.—Returns of live stock were obtained at the census taken in March 1886, but returns of the number of sheep in May were also made to the Sheep Department.

Sheep.—The number of sheep on the 31st May 1886, according to the returns made to the Sheep Inspector, was 15,254,198; an increase on the number similarly returned for May 1885 of 629,651.

Horses.—The number of horses in March 1886 was 187,382.

Cattle.—The number of cattle at the same date was 853,358; of these, 279,136 were breeding cows. These numbers do not include the stock owned by Maoris. The returns of the Maori

NEW ZEALAND. census gave the number of Native-owned sheep at 112,850, and cattle at 42,103.

Dairy Produce, Local Industries, &c.—Some tables relating to these subjects that were published with the other census results have been again published in the statistical volume for 1887.

PART V.—LAW, CRIME, AND EDUCATION.

Civil Cases.—The number of writs of summons tested in the Supreme Court during 1886 amounted to 1,690, an increase of 90 compared with the number in 1885. The number of cases actually tried in the past year was 208, against 246 in 1885. Of this number (208), 124 were tried by the judge without a jury.

The aggregate amount for which judgments were recorded was 108,241*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, and 273 writs of execution were issued in the year, against 264 in 1885.

The number of civil cases disposed of in the District Courts in 1886 was 364, of which 240 were brought to trial; of these, 219 were tried before a judge only. The aggregate of the amounts sued for was 24,754*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, and judgments were recorded for a total of 9,849*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.* 31,243 civil cases, representing claims to the amount of 336,236*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, were commenced in the various Magistrates' Courts. The total of the amounts for which judgments were given was 169,467*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*

The total number of the civil cases in all the courts was thus 31,815 in 1886, against 30,440 in 1885; and the aggregate of the amounts adjudicated to be paid in 1886 was 287,559*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, against 270,950*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* in the previous year.

Bankruptcies.—The number of petitions in bankruptcy was 1,089 in 1886, against 984 in 1885, an increase of 105.

The assets of creditors, according to the statements filed, amounted (exclusive of those secured to creditors) to 415,952*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* The amounts realised by the assignees in bankruptcy during the year came to 128,369*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* The debts proved amounted to 566,291*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*; and the aggregate of the amounts secured to certain of the creditors was 593,622*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* No fair estimate can yet be made of the average proportion of assets realised to those given in the debtors' statements. The amounts realised during any one year include amounts belonging to bankrupt estates not wound up at the commencement of the year, and at the end of each year there are numerous estates not fully realised. The statements of assests prior to 1885 did not distinguish between secured and unsecured assets, and therefore the unsecured assets cannot be separately shown.

The total amounts of the unsecured assets in 1885 and 1886, and the amounts realised by the official assignees during those years, are given herewith; but for the reasons given it will be necessary to take the result of a series of years, which cannot yet

be done, to obtain the average proportion between statements and realised assets :—

—	No. of Petitions in Bankruptcy.	Debtors' Statements of Assets.	Amounts realised by Official Assignees.	Amount of Debts proved: Unsecured Liabilities.
	£	£	£	£
1885 - -	984	297,306	109,862	322,897
1886 - -	1,089	415,953	128,370	566,291

Criminal Cases.—There were 21,622 charges against persons for various offences brought before the Magistrates' Courts in 1886. These include repeated charges of various kinds against the same person. In 1885 the number was 23,103 ; there was thus in 1886 a reduction of 1,441 on the number of charges in 1885. Of these charges 435 were against Maoris, an increase of 36 on the number in 1885.

The number of summary convictions was 16,705, including those of 277 Maoris. Of the number convicted, punishments by way of fine, imprisonment, &c., were only inflicted in 13,089 cases. 508 males and 28 females were committed for trial to the superior courts, being an increase of 113 on the number of males, but a decrease of 5 on the number of females committed in 1885.

472 persons, of whom 51 were Maoris, were indicted in the Supreme and District Courts in 1886. There was an increase in the year of 21 in the number of Maoris indicted, and of 54 in the number of other persons.

Of the number of persons indicted, 37 males (including 1 Maori) and 4 females were convicted of offences against the person ; 181 males (including 21 Maoris) and 5 females were convicted of offences against property ; and 56 males (including 5 Maoris) and 3 females were convicted of miscellaneous offences.

Three fifths of the persons indicted were convicted.

The numbers of summary convictions in the various Magistrates' Courts for certain of the most numerous offences in each of the past four years, together with the proportion per 1,000 of the mean population (exclusive of Maoris), are given herewith :—

—	Number.				Proportion per 1,000 of the Population.			
	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Assaults - - -	667	743	780	705	1·26	1·34	1·38	1·21
Larceny - - -	687	737	768	845	1·29	1·33	1·36	1·45
Drunkenness - -	6,779	6,527	6,494	5,983	12·81	11·81	11·49	10·28

The gradual decrease in the proportions of charges and convictions to the whole population has been referred to in previous

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reports on the statistics of the Colony. This decrease has continued through the past year, although there is a slight increase on the small number of convictions in the superior courts.

The following are the numbers and proportions for the past ten years: they do not include the charges against Maoris :—

Year.	Charges before Magistrates.		Summary Convictions.		Convictions before Superior Courts.	
	No.	Proportion per 1,000 of Population.	No.	Proportion per 1,000 of Population.	No.	Proportion per 1,000 of Population.
1877 - - - -	21,662	52·80	16,103	38·80	239	·56
1878 - - - -	21,880	51·66	16,119	38·08	286	·66
1879 - - - -	21,879	47·18	15,821	34·12	287	·62
1880 - - - -	20,750	43·74	14,778	31·16	295	·62
1881 - - - -	19,297	39·11	13,795	28·16	214	·43
1882 - - - -	22,108	43·41	16,220	31·85	200	·39
1883 - - - -	22,511	42·52	16,590	31·35	189	·36
1884 - - - -	23,105	41·81	17,672	31·98	219	·39
1885 - - - -	22,709	39·61	17,566	30·64	223	·39
1886 - - - -	21,227	36·46	16,428	28·22	259	·44

The convictions for offences against the person were in the proportion of 1·90 per 1,000 of the population in 1882, 1·57 in 1884, and 1·39 in 1886. Those for offences against property were 2·43 per 1,000 of the population in 1382, 2·14 in 1884, and 2·42 in 1886.

The following statement gives the number of convictions in the inferior and superior courts for offences against the person and property to every 1,000 of the population in the Colonies mentioned for the years given :—

—	New Zealand. 1886.	New South Wales. 1886.	Queensland. 1886.	Victoria. 1885.	Tasmania. 1886.
Offences against the person -	1·39	5·58	3·50	1·59	2·18
Offences against property -	2·42	4·40	3·27	1·90	3·03
Total - -	3·81	9·98	6·77	3·49	5·21

Prisoners received in Gaols.—The returns from the various gaols give an aggregate of 5,003 prisoners received during the year. Of these, 247 were confined on account of debt or lunacy (including 24 Maoris), and 128 prisoners were Maoris who had been guilty of offences. Exclusive of debtors, lunatics, and Maoris 3,671 males and 957 females were received during the year, a

decrease of 228 in the number of males, but an increase of 16 in the number of females.

These numbers include the repeated admissions of the same persons during the year. The receipt of a separate card for each admission has permitted of a compilation being made of the number of distinct and separate persons received into prison during the year, excluding transfers from one gaol to another of prisoners under sentence passed in a previous year.

The total number of separate persons received in gaol after conviction during 1886 (exclusive of Maoris) amounted to 2,774, and the number received, against whom no conviction was recorded, either having been on remand, waiting trial, or discharged, was 346. There was thus a decrease, compared with the numbers in 1885, of 278 in the number of convicted persons received, and of 47 in the number of prisoners not convicted. These numbers do not include children committed to the industrial schools either on account of being destitute or uncontrollable, but who were not convicted of any actual offence.

The following statement shows the number of separate and distinct persons who were imprisoned in 1885 and 1886, and the causes for imprisonment, only one cause being given where the same person was imprisoned for various offences at different times :—

	After Conviction.		Not convicted, on Remand, waiting Trial, &c.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
Felony and larceny - -	598	594	174	165
Misdemeanour - - -	100	90	60	63
Injury to property - -	42	54	6	4
Assault and resisting the police -	180	209	10	11
Acts of vagrancy - - -	244	205	18	8
Drunkenness - - -	1,200	1,077	71	48
Other offences - - -	688	545	54	47
Total - -	3,052	2,774	393	346

The number of separate persons thus received in gaol in 1886 on account of drunkenness was 1,129, or 36 per cent. of the total number of separate prisoners received. This by no means represents the full proportion of the burden thrown on the country by imprisonments for drunkenness, as a large number of these persons were convicted more than once—many, several times during the

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year—and in many cases of other offences, as assault, riotous or indecent conduct or language, the charges were combined with those of drunkenness.

Exclusive of Maoris, the number of separate prisoners received on account of charges of drunkenness in 1886 was less by 141 than the number in 1885. As persons are as a rule not committed for drunkenness until they have been convicted several times for that offence, an immediate large diminution in the number of these yearly imprisonments can hardly be expected; but the diminution in the convictions before the Resident Magistrates' Courts in 1886 was 523, all of males, for the convictions of females were 844 in 1886, against 832 in 1885.

The number of separate prisoners charged with grave offences, classified as felony, larceny, and misdemeanour, amounted to 26 per cent. of the total number of prisoners charged with offences, against a proportion of 27 per cent. in 1885.

The following tables have been compiled showing the number of prisoners received in gaol in 1886 for each class of offence stated, arranged according to the principal religious denominations, birthplaces, and ages—the prisoners convicted and those not convicted being separately given.

The following table shows the number of separate prisoners (exclusive of Maoris) of each principal denomination convicted during the year, with the class of offence; also the birthplaces and ages of these prisoners:—

	Felony and Larceny.	Misdemeanour.	Injury to Property.	Assault and resisting Police.	Vagrancy.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
Religions.								
Church of England	290	44	25	78	96	398	226	1,157
Roman Catholic	156	24	18	69	64	436	187	954
Presbyterian	93	9	6	30	27	183	84	432
Wesleyan	16	3	3	12	6	14	9	63
Others	39	10	2	20	12	46	39	168
Totals	594	90	54	209	205	1,077	545	2,774
Birthplaces.								
England and Wales	201	41	18	72	85	371	198	986
Scotland	72	10	6	24	19	167	78	376
Ireland	123	16	9	57	51	370	124	750
New Zealand	116	4	7	30	26	42	55	280
Australian Colonies	35	3	8	3	6	44	27	126
Other British Possessions	5	2	3	5	7	8	12	42
China	6	2	—	2	1	—	5	16
Other countries	36	12	3	16	10	75	46	198
Totals	594	90	54	209	205	1,077	545	2,774

	Felony and Larceny.	Misdemeanour.	Injury to Property.	Assault and resisting Police.	Vagrancy.	Drunkenness.	Other Offences.	Total.
Ages.								
Under 10	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
10 and under 12	8	—	2	—	—	—	2	12
12 and under 15	26	—	—	1	3	1	2	33
15 and under 20	84	3	4	13	16	19	29	168
20 and under 25	75	13	14	31	17	59	90	299
25 and under 30	82	13	7	39	30	124	85	380
30 and under 40	132	28	14	68	56	317	129	744
40 and under 50	106	23	9	40	41	334	142	695
50 and under 60	58	5	2	11	25	162	51	314
60 and over	20	5	2	6	17	61	15	126
Totals	594	90	54	209	205	1,077	545	2,774

Table showing the religions, birthplaces, and ages, in combination with the charges made against separate prisoners (exclusive of Maoris), received in the gaols during the year 1886, who were either not convicted, discharged, or were awaiting trial at the end of the year :—

	Felony and Larceny.	Misdemeanour.	Assault and resisting Police.	Drunkenness.	Injury to Property.	Vagrancy.	Other Offences.	Totals.
Religions.								
Church of England	75	34	5	25	—	3	24	166
Roman Catholic	42	9	3	12	1	2	13	82
Presbyterian	29	13	1	7	1	3	4	58
Wesleyan	13	1	1	—	2	—	1	18
Others	6	6	1	4	—	—	5	22
Totals	165	63	11	48	4	8	47	346
Birthplaces.								
England and Wales	53	29	4	22	2	1	19	130
Scotland	19	9	1	6	1	—	4	40
Ireland	27	7	4	16	1	3	9	67
New Zealand	37	10	2	2	—	2	7	60
Australian Colonies	11	2	—	1	—	1	2	17
Other British Possessions	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
China	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other foreign countries	17	4	—	1	—	—	6	28
Totals	165	63	11	48	4	8	47	346

—	Felony and Larceny.	Misdemeanour.	Assault and resisting Police.	Drunkenness.	Injury to Property.	Vagrancy.	Other Offences.	Totals.
Ages.								
Under 10 - - -	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
10 and under 12 - -	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
12 and under 15 - -	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
15 and under 20 - -	22	6	—	—	—	3	7	38
20 and under 25 - -	27	8	4	2	—	1	9	51
25 and under 30 - -	25	17	2	3	1	—	7	55
30 and under 40 - -	38	20	3	16	1	1	12	91
40 and under 50 - -	23	7	2	16	2	2	9	61
50 and under 60 - -	6	2	—	7	—	1	3	19
60 and over - - -	4	3	—	4	—	—	—	11
Totals - -	165	63	11	48	4	8	47	346

The following were the proportions of the separate convicted prisoners belonging to each of the four principal denominations to every 100 convicted prisoners in 1885 and 1886:—

Denomination of convicted Prisoners.	Proportion per 100 of convicted Prisoners.		Proportion of Denomination per 100 of Population at Census of 1886.
	1885.	1886.	
Church of England - -	41·68	41·71	40·17
Roman Catholic - - -	33·62	34·39	13·95
Presbyterian - - -	15·10	15·57	22·59
Wesleyans - - -	2·62	2·27	9·55

Excluding Maoris, the following are the proportions of convicted prisoners of each nationality to the total number of convicted prisoners for each of the two past years:—

Birthplaces.	No. of convicted Prisoners.		Proportion of each Nationality to every 100 Prisoners.		Proportion of Persons of each Nationality to every 100 of the Population in 1886.
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	
England and Wales - -	1,094	986	35·84	35·54	22·06
Scotland - - -	405	376	13·27	13·55	9·48
Ireland - - -	846	750	27·72	27·04	8·89
New Zealand - - -	253	280	8·29	10·09	51·89
Australian Colonies and other British Possessions.	174	168	5·70	6·06	3·66
China - - - -	17	16	0·56	0·58	0·79
Other foreign countries -	263	198	8·62	7·14	3·23
	—	—	—	—	100·00

Dealing separately with the New Zealand-born prisoners, the following tables combining their ages and offences are given. These also are so many separate and distinct persons, and do not include members of the Maori race:—

Offences.	Under 10.	10 and under 12.	12 and under 15.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 25.	25 and under 30.	30 and under 40.	40 and upwards.	Total.
Convicted New Zealand-born Prisoners.									
Felony and larceny	3	6	22	49	20	12	4	—	116
Misdemeanour	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
Wilful injury to property	—	2	—	2	3	—	—	—	7
Assault and resisting police	—	—	—	6	11	7	5	1	30
Acts of vagrancy	—	—	4	7	2	4	6	3	26
Drunkenness	—	—	—	8	7	9	15	3	42
Other offences	3	2	1	16	15	7	9	2	55
Total	6	10	27	91	59	39	39	9	280
New Zealand-born Prisoners received during the Year, either Discharged or awaiting Trial.									
Felony and larceny	4	3	8	11	6	6	2	1	41
Misdemeanour	—	—	—	4	2	3	1	—	10
Other offences	—	—	—	6	8	2	—	—	16
Totals	4	3	8	21	16	11	3	1	67

Of the convicted New Zealand-born prisoners 43 were under 15 years of age; the corresponding number in 1885 was 28: there was thus an increase of 15, or at the rate of over 53 per cent., in 1886 in the number of these juvenile New Zealand prisoners. On examination of the number of prisoners between 10 and 20 years of age who were convicted during the year, the result is shown of a very much higher proportion of convictions of those not born in the Colony. In March 1886 there were 126,274 persons in the Colony between 10 and 20 years of age; of these, 94,023 were born in the Colony; the number at 10 to 20 not born in the Colony was thus 32,251.

In 1886 the total number of distinct prisoners at ages 10 to 20 convicted of serious offences, felonies, larcenies, and misdemeanours was 121; of these, 80 were born in New Zealand. The total number at the same ages convicted of offences of all kinds was 213, of whom 128 were born in New Zealand. The following result is arrived at:—

—	Persons at Ages 10–20.	Distinct Prisoners.				Proportion per 10,000.
		Convicted of Felonies, Larcenies, and Misdemeanours.	Proportion per 10,000.	Convicted of Offences of all Kinds.	Proportion per 10,000.	
Born in the Colony	94,023	80	8·5	128	13·6	
Not born in the Colony	32,251	41	12·6	85	26·2	

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Inquests on Deaths.—Inquests were held during the year on the bodies of 514 males and 175 females, a total of 689; of these, the deaths of 281 males and 70 females were attributed to accidental causes. The largest number of deaths from any one cause was 130 from drowning, viz., of 95 males and of 35 females. The deaths of 51 males and 8 females were given as suicidal, and the deaths of 8 males and 5 females were directly imputed to the effects of intemperance.

Fire Inquests.—46 inquests on fires were held during the year, being an increase of 13 on the number in 1885. 17 verdicts of incendiarism were given, but, as in 24 cases there was no evidence to show how the fire occurred, it cannot be stated that only 17 of the fires were intentionally caused.

Education.—At the end of 1886 there were 1,456 schools of all classes, at which members of both the European and Maori races were being educated. This was an increase on the number in 1885 of 46 schools, viz., 39 European schools and 7 Native schools. The public primary schools numbered 1,054 in 1886, against 1,021 in 1885. The aided or endowed colleges, grammar and high schools numbered 23, against 24 in 1885; and the private schools increased in number from 280 in 1885 to 288 in 1886. The industrial schools and orphanages (public and private) were 10 in 1886, against 11 in 1885; and the schools established for the education of the native aboriginal race increased in number from 74 in 1885 to 81 in 1886.

Education at the public schools is free (except at those which have been converted into district high schools, at which the pupils learning the higher branches are charged fees) and purely secular, the attendance of all children between the ages of 7 and 13 being compulsory, except in cases in which special exemptions are granted, or when they are being otherwise sufficiently educated.

The number of European children on the rolls of attendance for the various schools in the last quarter of 1886 was 121,911, being an increase during the year of 3,031. Of these, 105,853 attended the public schools; 2,358 attended the colleges, grammar and high schools; 12,473 attended private schools; 436 attended the Native village schools; and 791 were inmates of industrial schools and orphanages. There was thus, as compared with the numbers at the end of 1885, an increase of 3,774 in the attendance at the public schools, a decrease of 301 in the numbers attending the colleges and superior schools, and an increase of 520 in the numbers attending private schools, and a decrease of 77 in the number of inmates of the industrial schools and orphanages.

Public Schools.—Exclusive of Maoris (but including half castes living among Europeans) there were 54,851 boys and 51,002 girls in attendance at the public schools during the last quarter of 1886, the increase on the numbers in 1885 having been 2,011 boys and 1,763 girls. There were 1,206 male and 1,515 female teachers at these schools—a total of 2,721, against 2,619 in 1885. Of these,

196 males and 721 females were pupil-teachers. The average number of pupils on the rolls to each teacher was nearly 39; the average number of pupils in attendance to each teacher was 31.

Secondary and Superior Schools.—These consist of aided or endowed colleges, grammar and high schools. They were 23 in number at the end of the year, 10 being for boys only, 6 for girls only, and 7 for boys and girls. The number of regular instructors was 123, and of visiting instructors 63. The number of pupils on the rolls for the last term of 1886 was 2,358, of whom 1,501 were boys and 857 were girls.

New Zealand University.—This university is not a teaching body, the undergraduates for the most part keeping their terms at the affiliated institutions, which are the following:—The Auckland University College, the Canterbury College, and the University of Otago, each having a staff of professors.

The lectures at Auckland University College in 1886 were attended by 5 graduates, 27 matriculated and 69 non-matriculated students; of these the males were 56 and the females 45. The names of 47 male and 27 female undergraduates were on the college register of 1886. 249 students attended the lectures at the Canterbury College, of whom 88 had matriculated; and 140 students attended the lectures at the Otago University, of whom 90 had matriculated.

The number of graduates on the 1st June 1887 who had obtained direct degrees was 145.

The number of undergraduates on the roll of the university was 740; a large proportion of these, however, have merely passed their matriculation examination, but do not subsequently keep terms. The number of undergraduates keeping terms on the 1st June 1887 was 401, of whom 271 were males and 130 were females.

Private Schools.—Returns were received from 288 private schools which were in operation in 1886, showing an increase of 8 on the number in 1885; of these schools, 32 were for boys only, 50 for girls only, and 206 were for children of both sexes. The number of teachers therein was 695, viz., 134 males and 561 females; and the number of pupils 12,497, of whom 24 (6 males and 18 females) were Maoris. Exclusive of Maoris there was an increase in the year of 265 in the number of boys and of 255 in the number of girls attending these schools.

Native Schools.—The number of Native village schools at the end of 1886, either supported or subsidised by the Government, was 71. In addition there were 2 private schools set apart for the education of Maori children only, and at 8 private schools for European children Maoris were maintained at the expense of the Government or out of the proceeds of endowments.

The number of Maori children at these various schools at the end of 1886 was 2,148, viz., 1,216 boys and 932 girls. In the term "Maori" are included all children of mixed European and Maori blood who live as members of Native tribes.

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The following is a statement of the number of Maori children who were attending schools in 1885 and 1886 :—

	Boys.		Girls.		Total of both Sexes.	
	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.	1885.	1886.
At public European schools - -	187	279	141	196	328	475
At Native village schools - -	1,005	1,084	759	826	1,764	1,910
At subsidised or endowed boarding schools - - - - -	81	101	62	61	143	162
At private European or Native schools	47	37	66	63	113	100
Totals - - -	1,320	1,501	1,028	1,146	2,348	2,647

There was thus an increase of 299 on the number of Native children who were being educated in 1885, but in 1885 the number was less by 284 than the number in 1884: thus, the number in 1886 was only greater by 15 than the number in 1884.

It is impossible to state exactly the proportion of Maori children at ages 5 to 15 who were being educated, as in the first place the ages of the Maori pupils are not separately given, and also the ages of all the Maori children were not given at the census in 1886. An approximation, however, may be made. Of a Maori population of 22,840 males and 19,129 females, the ages, as far as under and over 15 years, of 21,724 males and 17,936 females were ascertained. The proportions obtained, applied to the whole of the population, would give 7,226 males and 6,420 females under 15 years of age. If it be assumed, which probably may be nearly correct, that all the Maoris at school were under 15, then it would appear that nearly 21 per cent. of the male children and nearly 18 per cent. of the female children under 15 years of age were receiving an education. It is estimated from partial returns of the ages of Maori children at the time of the census that 28 per cent. of the male children under 15 and nearly 35 per cent. of the female children of the Maori race under 15 were under 5 years of age. Assuming that the children at school are all over five as well as under 15, it may be roughly stated that about 29 per cent. of the Maori boys and 27 per cent. of the Maori girls between 5 and 15 years of age attend school.

It is worthy of note that the average attendance of Maoris at the village schools is higher than that of the Europeans in the public schools in either of the education districts. The average daily number in attendance amounted to 86·2 per cent. of the number on the roll; the highest similar per-centage in the education districts was 83·5 in Otago, and the lowest 73·8 in Taranaki.

Public Schools Income and Expenditure.—The total income of the various Education Boards for the year 1886 amounted to 411,642*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*; of this, the sum of 378,188*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.* was

received from the Government. This included—(1) Grants consisting of the statutory allowance of 3*l.* 15*s.* per child in daily average attendance, a capitation allowance of 5*s.* for incidental expenses, and a further capitation allowance of 1*s.* 6*d.* for scholarships; and (2) the amount of 60,170*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* for school buildings. The aggregate of the amounts received in 1886 from the Government were in excess of the aggregate amount in 1885 by 12,608*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

The total expenditure amounted to 412,075*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, of which the sum of 325,597*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* was for the maintenance of the schools, 10,695*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* for the expenses of the boards, 10,241*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* for inspection of schools and examination of pupil-teachers, 65,007*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* on school buildings, and 533*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* for miscellaneous payments.

The following gives the cost per scholar for the years 1885 and 1886, calculated on the average daily attendance :—

Year.	Boards' Management.	Inspection and Examination of Teachers.	Maintenance.	Total.	School Buildings.	Total Current Expenditure and School Buildings.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1885 - - -	0 2 7½	0 2 6	3 17 5½	4 2 7	0 16 1¾	4 18 8¾
1886 - - -	0 2 6	0 2 4¾	3 16 3¾	4 1 2½	0 15 2½	4 16 5

Native Schools Expenditure.—The expenditure on account of the several village schools in 1886 amounted to 16,763*l.* 12*s.* Further sums, amounting to 2,785*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, were expended as grants for higher education and apprenticeship, on inspection, miscellaneous services, and retiring allowances to teachers. The amount of 1,680*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* was expended in the maintenance of Maoris at the subsidised boarding schools.

Industrial Schools Expenditure.—The following was the cost of the Government industrial schools in 1886 :—

School.	Cost of School.	Cost of Boarding-out.	Recoveries.	Net Cost.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Auckland - - - -	2,004 9 7	2,073 8 2	413 15 5	3,664 2
Burnham - - - -	3,996 16 0	4,225 2 3	1,333 2 4	6,888 15 11
Caversham - - - -	3,311 7 9	3,519 18 7	1,213 5 10	5,618 0 6
Totals - - -	9,312 13 4	9,818 9 0	2,960 3 7	16,170 18 9
Salaries and expenses of visiting officer - - - - -	—	—	—	241 0 2
Grand total - -	—	—	—	16,411 18 11

The average cost for the maintenance by the Government of each child committed to the Government schools and private

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industrial schools was a little over 23*l.* The payment for a child under 15 years of age committed to a private industrial school and for a boarded-out child is 1*s.* per day or 18*l.* 5*s.* a year; "but, as "many of the children require an outfit before they can be sent "out to board, and as their affairs occupy much of the time of the "managers of the schools and other officers, it is not possible to "distinguish between the cost of maintaining the children in the "schools and the cost of maintaining boarded-out children."

Deaf-mute Institution. In addition to the children previously enumerated, there were at the end of 1886 41 deaf-mutes at the Government institution at Sumner, an increase of 4 on the number in 1885. The children are taught to speak with the mouth, and to perceive the articulate speech of their neighbours by observing the movement of their lips.

The expenditure of the school for the year 1886 was 3,514*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* Parents who can afford to do so are required to pay 40*l.* a year for the instruction and maintenance of each child; but as the recoveries from parents during the year only amounted to 385*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*, a large proportion of them were apparently unable to pay the required amount.

PART VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Returns have been received from all the counties in which the whole of the Counties Act was in operation except one (Kaikoura), from all the boroughs, and from all the town and road boards but five.

The total revenue for the past financial year of various counties, borough councils, and road, town, river, drainage, and harbour boards amounted to 1,224,299*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, of which the receipts from rates amounted to 434,236*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, and those from the General Government to 342,431*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* There was a decrease of 68,956*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* on the total revenue received in the previous year. The receipts from the General Government were less by 35,378*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, but the receipts from rates increased by 23,597*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

The receipts which did not form part of the revenue amounted to 992,633*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, but in these were included the receipts from loans, the amount of outstanding loans having been increased during the year by the sum of 677,477*l.*

The total expenditure of these bodies amounted to 1,885,000*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, of which the amount spent on public works was 1,301,868*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

The several liabilities of the local bodies at the end of their last financial year amounted to 6,283,670*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, of which the outstanding loans, exclusive of amounts due to the General Government under "the Roads and Bridges Construction Act, 1882," amounted to 5,620,747*l.*, bearing rates of interest varying from 5 to 8 per cent.

COUNTIES.

Value of Rateable Property not included in Road Districts.—The value of rateable property in counties is not to be considered as including the value of all properties therein, as certain Crown lands and all unoccupied Native lands not lying within five miles of a highway are excluded.

The total value of rateable property in counties, but not included in any town or road districts, was, on the 31st March 1887, 24,064,003*l.* Of this, the sum of 5,567,243*l.* represented the value of Crown and Native lands on which rates are paid by the Government.

The value of the properties on which rates were paid by individuals increased during the year by 1,166,829*l.*, and the values of rateable Crown and Native lands by 695,773*l.*

Revenue.—The revenue for the year ending the 31st March 1887 of all the counties (except Kaikoura) in which the Counties Act is in full force was 349,191*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, of which the sum of 105,716*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* was received from rates.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the counties during the same period was 374,023*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, of which the sum of 282,223*l.* 14*s.* was spent on public works, 39,972*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* on management, and 22,211*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* on hospitals and charitable aid.

The liabilities at the end of the year amounted to 190,799*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*, against 188,899*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* at the end of the previous financial year.

Municipal Boroughs.

Annual Value of Rateable Property.—The estimated net annual value of rateable property in the 77 boroughs in the Colony was on the 31st March 1887 2,302,502*l.* After allowing for the values in the three additional boroughs constituted during the year, there was a decrease in the total net annual value of 13,336*l.* on the similar value at the end of the previous year.

The Act under which the valuation is made provides for a reduction from the renting value of 20 per cent. on houses and buildings and 10 per cent. on land. The actual annual values of the properties will therefore be greater than the rateable values given by from 11 to 25 per cent.

Revenue.—The revenues of the boroughs for the past year amounted to a total sum of 393,831*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* The receipts from rates were 204,969*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and those from the General Government 38,180*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*

Expenditure.— Of a total expenditure amounting to 608,776*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, the sum of 452,291*l.* 17*s.* was spent on public works, and 42,522*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* on official management.

Outstanding Loans.—The indebtedness of the boroughs on account of outstanding loans was, at the end of the last financial year, 2,452,585*l.* The increase of indebtedness under this heading during the year amounted to 194,810*l.*

Town and Road Districts.

Value of Rateable Property.—The property in the various town districts is not rated on a uniform system. In the majority of these districts the rate is levied on the total value of the property, in the others on the net annual value, but in the road districts the rate is levied on the total value.

The estimated total value of properties in the first-mentioned town districts at the end of the year was 1,796,936*l.*, and the net annual value of properties in the rest of the districts was 52,774*l.* The total value of rateable properties in the road districts was 47,645,955*l.* In each case the values of Crown and Native rateable lands are included; these amounted to 3,481,337*l.* of the values of total rateable properties and to 1,866*l.* of the net annual values. Excluding the Crown and unoccupied rateable Native lands, the values of the rateable properties in the Colony in each of the years 1886 and 1887 were as follows:—

	31st March 1886.		31st March 1887.	
	Rated on Total Value.	Rated on Annual Value.	Rated on Total Value.	Rated on Annual Value.
	£	£	£	£
In counties not in road districts	17,329,931	—	18,496,760	—
In counties in road districts -	45,777,635	—	44,226,708	—
In town districts - - -	1,596,702	58,483	1,734,846	50,908
In boroughs - - -	—	2,260,765	—	2,302,502
Totals - - -	64,704,268	2,319,248	64,458,314	2,353,410

Assuming that the capital value is worth sixteen times the net annual value (it should be worth more, for, as has been previously remarked, the net annual value should be increased by from 11 to 25 per cent., according to whether the property consists of land or houses, in order to arrive at the full annual value), the total of all rateable property, excepting Crown and Native unoccupied lands, in each of the two past years, would be as follows:—

Year.	Value of Properties rated on Basis of Total Value	Annual Value of Properties rated on that Basis.	Annual Value capitalised by multiplying by 16.	Total Value of Rateable Property in Colony, except Crown and Native Lands.
	£	£	£	£
1885-86 - - - -	64,704,268	2,319,248	37,108,168	101,812,436
1886-87 - - - -	64,458,314	2,353,410	37,654,560	102,112,874
Increase in 1886-87 -	—	—	—	300,438

Revenue.—The total revenue of the town districts amounted to 18,293*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*, of which the receipts from rates amounted to 6,545*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*, and those from the Government to 3,381*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*

The total revenue of the Road Boards was 173,502*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, of which rates yielded 89,671*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.* These are not the exact amounts for the year, as the revenue for three districts in respect of which no returns have been received have been given for the previous year, the total amount being thus more nearly correct than if these had been omitted; the total amount for the three was only 3,766*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*

Expenditure.—The total expenditure for the town districts was 20,935*l.* 19*s.*, of which the sum of 13,335*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* was spent on public works, and 3,191*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* on management. The expenditure of the Road Boards amounted to 192,068*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*, of which the sum of 140,973*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* was spent on public works, and 20,628*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* on management.

Harbour Boards.

Revenue.—The revenue of the Harbour Boards for the year 1886 was 258,483*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, of which only the sum of 28,357*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* was received from the Government. Deducting in each year the grants from the Government, the ordinary revenue of these harbours was greater in 1886 than in 1885 by 6,413*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.*

Expenditure.—The total expenditure by these Boards amounted in 1886 to 638,143*l.* 19*s.*, of which the sum of 402,555*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* was spent on public works.

Outstanding Loans.—The loan indebtedness of these Boards at the end of 1886 amounted to 2,887,700*l.*, against a similar indebtedness at the end of 1885 of 2,414,945*l.*

River Boards.

The aggregate revenue of these Boards amounted to 11,394*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* in the past year, against 11,272*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* in the previous year. The receipts from rates amounted to 7,752*l.* 0*s.* 1*d* and those from the Government to 275*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* The receipts not being revenue amounted to 21,783*l.*; the expenditure amounted to 32,816*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; and the outstanding loans at the end of the year amounted to 52,099*l.*

Drainage Board.

There was only one Board of this description in the Colony—that at Christchurch. The revenue amounted to 19,602*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, of which rates yielded 19,581*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* The outstanding loans at the end of the year amounted to 200,000*l.*

Defence and Police Force.

The Armed Constabulary Force has, in terms of "the Defence Act, 1886," and "the Police Force Act, 1886," been abolished, and two separate bodies established in lieu thereof, viz., the New Zealand Permanent Militia and the New Zealand Police Force.

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Permanent Militia.—This force is divided into four branches, viz., artillery, engineer, torpedo, and rifle. At the end of 1886 the artillery branch consisted of 4 commissioned and 16 non-commissioned officers, and 100 rank and file. They were distributed among the various coast defences recently erected at the four principal ports.

The engineer branch consisted of 1 non-commissioned officer and 19 rank and file.

The torpedo branch consisted of 2 commissioned and 7 non-commissioned officers, and 43 rank and file.

The rifle branch consisted of 9 commissioned and 17 non-commissioned officers, and 130 rank and file.

The total number of all branches and ranks was thus 348, being a decrease of 47 on the similar total in the Armed Constabulary Force at the end of 1885.

Police Force.—The total number of all ranks in this force was 504 at the end of 1886, against 492 at the end of 1885. The force consisted of 18 commissioned and 68 non commissioned officers, and 418 rank and file.

Volunteers.—The number of volunteer corps in the Colony at the end of 1886 was 188, having an aggregate strength of 11,204 of all ranks, against 164 corps with a strength of 10,275 at the end of 1885. The increase was in the cadet corps, the number having been 27, with a strength of 1,704 in 1885, and 43, with a strength of 2,639 in 1886. There was an increase in the number and strength of the cavalry corps, but a decrease in the strength of the other branches of the force.

Fire Brigades.

There were 55 of these brigades in the Colony at the end of 1885, having an aggregate numerical strength of 182 officers and 1,012 men, being an increase of 5 on the number of brigades, a decrease of 30 on the number of officers, and an increase of 142 on the number of men in 1885.

Friendly Societies.

The information given only applies to those societies which made returns to the registrar.

Membership and Funds.—The number of members belonging to the various friendly societies on the 31st December 1885 was 22,794, an increase on the number at the end of 1884 of 1,650.

The total value of the assets of these societies on the above date was 322,264*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, against 290,738*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* at the end of 1884. The total assets at the end of 1885 were equivalent to 14*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* per member, against 13*l.* 15*s.* in 1884, and 13*l.* 11*s.* 0½*d.* in 1883.

Of the total assets the value of the sick and funeral benefit funds amounted to 285,614*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, against 225,642*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* in the previous year, and the value of the management funds to 23,806*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, against 23,507*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.*

The amount of the total investments at interest at the end of 1885 was 192,398*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.*, the rates of interest varying from 4½ to 7·9 per cent. per annum, the average rate being 7 per cent. The value of investments in lands and building (in many cases not yielding any cash returns) was 100,772*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*

Receipts and Expenditure.—The receipts of these societies in 1885 on account of the sick and funeral funds amounted to 50,492*l.* 8*s.*, being less than the similar receipts in 1884 by 2,343*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*; the contributions by members having amounted to 30,126*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, against 32,304*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* in 1884; and the receipts from interest, rent, and other sources to 20,365*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, against 20,531*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* in 1884.

The receipts on behalf of the medical and management expenses funds amounted to 37,609*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, of which the contributions and levies from members amounted to 30,325*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

The total contributions from 22,794 members in 1885 were 60,451*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.*, exclusive of entrance and clearance fees, being an average of 2*l.* 13*s.* 0½*d.* per member, against an average of 3*l.* in 1884, and 2*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* in 1883.

Representation.

The number of names on the electoral rolls at the time of the general election in October 1887 was 175,410, viz., 76,719 on the rolls in the North Island, and 98,691 on the rolls in the Middle and South Island. The number of males of 21 years of age and upwards (exclusive of Chinese) in the electoral districts in March 1886 was 149,176. Allowing for deaths during 18 months and the addition of persons previously between 20 and 21 years of age, it is estimated that there were 154,700 males (exclusive of Chinese) in the electoral districts in October 1887. This number, which includes prisoners, lunatics, the infirm, decrepit, &c., was less than the aggregate of the number of males on the rolls by 20,710. Nearly 12 per cent. of the names on the rolls consists of those of persons whose names appear on more than one roll, and doubtless to some extent of names of persons which should not appear either on account of death, want of age, or disqualification. The number of votes recorded at the recent election was 111,911, or about 68 per cent. of the number of names on the rolls. The above remarks do not apply to Maori electorates.

The ages of all the Maoris were not given, but an estimate based on the proportion of those stated gives the number of Maoris at 20 years and upwards as 14,490. The number of Maori votes recorded at the recent election of the four Maori members was 8,822, equivalent to 61 per cent. of the number of Maoris over 20 years of age.

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Life Assurance Companies.

In order to prepare tables that would show the extent of the transactions by the several life assurance companies doing business in the Colony, a return on a form specially framed for the purpose was asked for from each company. Only one of these filled the form sent, and the tables now given have been compiled from the returns sent to the Colonial Treasurer in terms of section 46 of "the Life Assurance Companies Act, 1873," and "the Life Assurance Policies Act, 1884."

There were 7 life assurance companies doing business in the Colony in 1886, exclusive of the Life Insurance Department of the New Zealand Government.

The aggregate number of policies issued in the Colony during the year by these several companies and the Government Insurance Department was 9,152, representing an aggregate amount insured of 2,303,681*l.* 17*s.* Of these, 2,401 policies, representing 717,500*l.*, were taken out in the Australian Mutual Provident Society, and 3,456 policies, representing 713,882*l.*, in the Government Insurance Department.

The average value of each policy taken out during the year was 251*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* The average value of each in the Australian Mutual Provident Society was 298*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*; in the whole of the other companies, 264*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.*; and the average value in the Government Insurance Department was 206*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*

The gross amount insured by policies taken out in the Colony and existing at the end of 1886 was 13,472,340*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, of which the policies in the Australian Mutual Provident Society represented 4,437,137*l.* and those in the Government Insurance Department 6,670,741*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, the balance being distributed among the other companies.

Revenue.—The total revenue on New Zealand life assurance business during the year was 533,204*l.*, of which 56,024*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* accrued from new premiums and 348,278*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* from renewals. The interest credited to revenue amounted to 123,597*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* The Government Insurance Department received the largest revenue, 255,603*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, and the Australian Mutual Provident Society ranked next with a revenue amounting to 193,036*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*; but the portion of the revenue accruing from new premiums received by the Australian Mutual Provident Society was more than double that received by the Government Insurance Department.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure during the year in respect of New Zealand business amounted to 276,039*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, of which the claims paid amounted to 109,776*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, and the payments for surrenders to 40,352*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* The largest amount both for claims and surrenders was paid by the New Zealand Government Insurance Department, and the next largest by the Australian Mutual Provident Society. The expenses of manage-

ment, &c., during the year amounted to 115,652*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, being at the rate of 21·69 per cent. on the year's revenue (including interest). The rate of expenses varied greatly. The following were the several proportions for the year 1886 :—

	Revenue in 1886.	Expenses in 1886.	Proportion of Expenses to Revenue.
	£	£	Per cent.
Australian Mutual Provident Society	193,036	26,367	13·66
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society (Limited) - -	13,625	10,936	80·26
Equitable Insurance Association of New Zealand - - -	1,870	1,494	79·89
Equitable Life Assurance Society of United States - - -	20,317	8,741	43·02
Mutual Assurance Society of Victoria (Limited) - -	10,290	6,722	65·33
Mutual Life Association of Australasia - - - -	18,120	8,069	44·53
Nationa. Mutual Life Association of Australia (Limited) - -	20,341	9,278	45·61
New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department - -	255,603	44,044	17·23

In those societies which have not been long in operation in the Colony, and in which the business is as yet of a limited character, the expenses would necessarily bear an abnormally high proportion to the revenue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. R. E. BROWN,
Registrar-General.

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title-page :—

No.	Colony.	Price.
		d.
1	Virgin Islands - - -	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	2
3	Gambia - - - -	1
4	Victoria - - - -	2½

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 18.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1888.

LONDON:
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1888.

[C.—5249.—15.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	1888	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands -	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	1
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1

No. 18.

ST. HELENA.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4842]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3218]; 1880 [C.—3094].]

Administrator GREY-WILSON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

The Castle, St. Helena,
May 16, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for 1887, and my report upon the same.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GREY-WILSON,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1887.

Taxes, Duties.

No change was made during 1887.

Revenue and Expenditure

The revenue was 8,043*l.*, the smallest ever collected in this Colony. To this must be added 3,000*l.* on account of grant in aid, making a total revenue of 11,043*l.* against an expenditure of 11,369*l.*; but as the revenue exceeded the expenditure in 1886 there remained a surplus of 976*l.* on the 1st January 1887 to help the revenue for that year. The decrease of revenue was due entirely to the falling off in the Customs takings; nearly every other item shows a slight increase. The falling off in the Customs was due to the absence of leaky ships, not one of which arrived during 1887, and to the epidemic of measles, which caused widespread distress and a consequent diminution in the consumption of imports. The expenditure shows an increase of 160*l.* as compared with the previous year. This increase was due to damage caused by flood to the Jamestown run.

Public Debt.

The debt on the 31st December 1887 was 4,250*l.* in debentures at 7 per cent., 1,000*l.* having been paid off during the year; there is also a sum of 5,158*l.* due to the Imperial Treasury, but paying

ST. HELENA.

no interest. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December were 8,762*l.*, and the liabilities, including loans, were 17,891*l.* This discloses a fairly healthy financial condition, for while the liabilities exceed those of the previous year by 854*l.*, the assets exceed those of 1886 by 1,581*l.* The pension list stood at the remarkable high sum of 2,230*l.*, being two thirds of the cost of the entire present Civil Establishment.

Military Expenditure.

The garrison consisted of one company of the Royal Scots and one battery of Artillery, maintained at a cost to the Imperial Government of 16,080*l.*

A sum of 3,786*l.* was expended by the Imperial Government upon the defence of the port as a coaling station; two heavy batteries commenced in 1886 were completed, and considerable progress was made with two more on the heights overlooking Jamestown.

Public Works.

The maintenance of buildings cost 313*l.*, forests and roads 181*l.*, the water supply, including drainage, 714*l.*, of which some 200*l.* was expended upon the reconstruction and repair of "the run" passing through Jamestown, which was very much damaged by heavy floods in the early part of the year. The water supplied by Government continues to be of first rate quality.

Legislation.

Eight Ordinances were passed, of which the most important are:—

No. 1. "To regulate inquiries into wrecks." This law enables the Governor to appoint a Receiver, who may take charge of, regulate, and inquire into the circumstances of all ships wrecked or damaged on or near the coast.

No. 2. "Declaratory of the laws in force." By this Ordinance so much of the law of England for the time being as is applicable to local circumstances is in force in this Island.

This law is prospective as well as retrospective.

No. 4. "To amend the law relating to jurors." The Chief Justice may cause any case to be tried by a special instead of a common jury.

No. 7. "For controlling the endowment of the bishopric of St. Helena." This Ordinance has been passed to prevent confusion and difficulty on the occurrence of a vacancy in the see, and to secure the due administration of the bishopric funds during such vacancy.

Council.

Major P. W. H. Miles, R.A., commanding the Royal Artillery, and Mr. Thomas Edmund Fowler were sworn of the Executive Council, raising the number of the Council to six.

The second senior officer on the Island has a seat in Council only during such time as the Government of the Island is administered by the officer commanding the troops.

Civil Establishment.

On the 4th of October, Colonel Grant Blunt, R.E., commanding the troops and ex-officio Acting Governor, was relieved by Lieut.-Colonel Woodward, R.E., and on the same day I assumed the administration of the Government by virtue of Her Majesty's Commission of 15th August 1887.

The Colonial Engineer Department has for many years been supervised and conducted by the Royal Engineer staff, but on October 4th the Civil Engineer Department was resuscitated, Mr. Thomas Broadway being appointed Clerk of Works, Mr. Thomas Woodman, Foreman of Works, and by this change a considerable saving has been effected.

The following appointments were also made:—Mr. R. M. Pritchard to be Emigration Agent and Shipping Master; Mr. S. P. Young to be Acting Postmaster; Mr. C. Bruce to be Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages; Mr. George C. Bruce to the Meteorological Office, and Mr. R. R. Bruce to be clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Pensions.

No new pensions were granted and the pension list declined 51*l.* owing to deaths. The pension list stood on December 31st at 2,203*l.*

Consuls.

Mr. Fred. Ellison was appointed American Consul in May and resigned in December, and no fresh appointment has yet been made.

Population

The population is undoubtedly steadily increasing, and may be estimated at 5,200.

Education.

The educational advantages are adequate. The Government maintains four schools; there are seven supported by charitable bequests and three or four private schools, the whole of which may be styled elementary. The number of scholars (820) is slightly in excess of 1886.

ST. HELENA.

Savings Bank.

The Government Savings Bank showed an increase of deposits on 31st December 1887 over the same date in 1886 of 295*l.*, but the number of depositors remained the same, viz., 84. The reason for the small number of depositors is that the bulk of the population subscribe to one or more of the friendly societies, and these societies place their money in the savings bank, counting only as one depositor each.

Imports and Exports.

The imports amounted in value to 46,856*l.*, the exports to 13,853*l.*, in both of which totals are included the sum 13,168*l.* whalebone and oil transhipped at this Island. The imports show a decrease of 14,000*l.* the exports a decrease of 8,000*l.* compared with 1886.

Shipping.

The number of vessels which called was 318, with a tonnage of 342,589, and there entered 106,249 tons and cleared 19,557 tons. Rear-Admiral Sir Walter Hunt Grubbe visited the Island twice in H.M.S. "Raleigh." Numerous men-of-war came from the west coast of Africa to recruit, and Lord Brassey called in the "Sunbeam" to observe the defences in course of construction. The number of calling vessels is still decreasing annually.

Gaols.

Only three serious crimes were committed during the year, an attempted rape, for which a negro was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and two cases of incendiarism (undiscovered), the first of which was accompanied by a serious robbery.

Hospital.

The health of the Island (excepting the epidemic of measles) was excellent; 113 cases were treated as in patients during the year, with eight deaths. The cost per head was 3*s.* 0½*d.*, inclusive of attendance. The death rate for the whole Island was 17·1 per 1,000, and this includes invalids who were brought to St. Helena.

Meteorological.

The year under review was dry; the rainfall at Longwood where Napoleon lived was 28·74 inches. No lightning has occurred in the Island since 1878, and storms are unknown.

General Remarks.

In point of climate St. Helena will compare favourable with any other British Colony, and the soil is remarkably productive. The potatoe harvest was the largest for many years past, and the price came down to 6*s.* per 100 lbs. Nearly all English vegetables grow to perfection.

The taxation, including poor rates, amounted to a fraction more than 1*l.* a head of the population, and although it became necessary during the year to forestall the grant in aid to the extent of 1,000*l.*, I do not anticipate that this will again be necessary, and I am of opinion that in the absence of any unforeseen circumstance the Colony may be regarded as having approached very nearly the lowest point of its depression.

This depression is due to four causes:—(1) the opening of the Suez Canal, which diverted so large a proportion of the trade to the east; (2) the substitution of steam for sailing vessels; (3) the very great economy aimed at by shipowners in the face of low freights. This necessary economy has developed the tinned provision trade to an enormous extent, and rendered ships more or less independent of the ports of call. (4) The elimination of defective ships, due to recent Imperial Legislation, by which excellent measures this Colony has been deprived of much of the harvest cleared from vessels in distress, a harvest which those concerned have not, I fear, reaped with the moderation necessary to retain at this date any but a mere gleaning in cases which will admit of no delay.

The possibility of stimulating to vitality an industry in the Island fibres is engaging my serious attention.

(Signed) W. GREY-WILSON,
Administering the Government.

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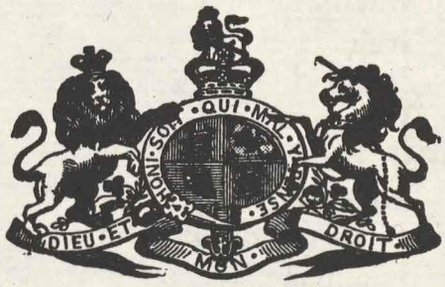
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 32.

ST. LUCIA.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249.—29.]

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			d.
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3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	—	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turk's Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report) -	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	„	3
25	St. Vincent - -	„	½
26	Sierra Leone (Report on Medical Department).	„	1
27	Leeward Islands - -	„	3½
28	British Guiana - -	„	2
29	Western Australia - -	„	½
30	Falklands - - -	„	1
31	Basutoland (Report for 1887)	„	1½

No. 32.

ST. LUCIA.

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5071]; 1885 [C.—4842]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3388].]

Governor Sendall to Lord Knutsford.

Grenada, August 30, 1888.

Forwarded.

(Signed) Walter J. Sendall.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

Sir, Government House, August 22, 1888.

I have the honour to transmit my report on the St. Lucia Blue Book for 1887.

2. I trust the promptitude and regularity with which, in the past 10 years, I have furnished my Reports will be accepted as evidence that the delay in the present year has been caused by circumstances which I could not control.

3. I am having the Blue Book printed for the first time, and the pressure on the printing office for the preparation of the laws for the consolidated edition has delayed its issue. It will be forwarded shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Edward Laborde.

His Excellency
Walter J. Sendall, Esq., C.M.G.,
Governor-in-Chief.

Report on the Blue Book for the Year 1887.

Taxes, Duties, Fees, &c.

1. There were no changes under this head. The Cargo Dues Ordinance was published on the 30th day of December, but only began to operate in 1888.

ST. LUCIA.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The revenue of 1887, 39,967*l.*, was very similar to that of 1886 in the gross sum, but there was a falling off under the heads of customs, excise, and licences. It compares well with the revenue of 1885, as will be seen by the table hereunder:—

	1885.			1886.			1887.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs - - -	17,255	19	2	19,207	11	10	17,901	14	4
Excise - - -	10,114	10	8	11,122	1	0	10,825	9	10
Licences - - -	1,881	18	9	2,112	6	3	1,893	17	3
Taxes - - -	1,661	11	6	1,624	5	0	1,775	16	11
Fees of office - -	829	13	11	938	7	4	1,019	5	4
Fines and fees - -	1,292	7	11	1,038	14	11	1,136	16	3
Post office - -	548	14	6	509	18	11	528	0	1
Reimbursements in aid -	4,257	12	5	2,327	3	7	1,792	18	1
Repayment of loans -	—			50	0	0	633	6	8
Interest - - -	636	16	9	788	0	0	570	8	1
Miscellaneous - -	13	15	11	104	15	3	1,889	3	3
Total - -	38,493	1	6	39,823	4	1	39,966	16	1

The decrease in 1886 and in 1887 in reimbursements in aid was due to a less number of coolies in the hospitals, and consequently to smaller contributions from the immigration fund for their maintenance.

3. The expenditure of the year was 43,598*l.*, a slight decrease on that of 1886. The table below shows the expenditure for the past three years.

	1885.			1886.			1887.		
Fixed Establishment.	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Civil - - -	5,105	14	1	4,846	4	7	4,658	15	4
Judicial - - -	4,005	3	1	3,717	16	7	3,785	6	3
Police - - -	2,871	7	10	2,329	13	3	2,392	19	0
Gaols - - -	279	10	0	293	0	0	293	3	9
Ecclesiastical - -	1,612	4	8	1,444	17	9	1,433	7	4
Medical - - -	2,299	8	8	2,136	18	5	2,079	1	9
Exclusive of Establishment.									
Civil - - -	1,719	9	0	2,366	16	3	1,997	8	8
Judicial - - -	307	9	6	426	10	3	338	6	10
Police - - -	415	8	9	381	1	9	344	16	4
Gaols - - -	752	6	6	611	13	9	518	10	11
Medical and charitable -	6,907	10	3	5,847	7	4	5,362	10	9
Education - -	1,355	16	8	1,250	0	0	1,405	3	9
Pensions - - -	1,251	12	4	1,209	7	7	1,054	7	5
Drawbacks - -	139	10	4	320	12	10	273	19	9
Immigration - -	1,942	19	2	—			—		
Works and buildings -	4,931	6	4	11,517	9	2	8,428	0	2
Rent - - -	576	10	4	528	7	0	440	12	0
Loans and interest -	2,100	0	0	2,341	9	11	3,713	3	2
Subsidies - - -	1,511	3	11	1,450	0	0	1,198	15	0

	1885.	1886.	1887.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Insurance - -	73 18 0	115 18 0	179 7 0
Stationery - -	—	169 16 5	68 3 8
Castries Cemetery -	—	50 6 0	50 4 0
Forestry conservation -	—	85 15 4	—
Sanitary - - -	—	—	241 18 7
Telegrams - -	—	—	33 10 1
Botanical Station -	—	—	344 17 6
Miscellaneous - -	3,579 19 4	672 12 10	2,961 5 6
Total - -	43,738 8 9	44,113 15 0	43,597 14 6

The items stationery and cemetery were included in miscellaneous prior to 1886, so also were the items sanitary and telegrams prior to 1887. Forestry conservation was a new item in 1886, and so was Botanical Station in 1887.

Debt.

4. The public debt was largely added to in the past year for carrying out the improvements to Castries Harbour. Debentures to the amount of 70,000*l.* at 4½ per cent. were put into the market in May and realised 73,224*l.* At the same time further debentures for the St. Lucia Central Sugar Factory for 10,000*l.* at the same rate of interest were issued which brought 10,505*l.* At the close of 1887 the debt of the Colony was as under:—

	£
For St. Lucia Central Sugar Factory -	35,100
For Castries Harbour improvements -	70,000
For Immigration - - -	8,600
Total debt - -	113,700

Military Expenditure.

5. The expenditure under this head was very trifling in the year; little or no progress was made in the proposed fortifications. But since the commencement of 1888 land has been acquired for them and the works have been begun. The military buildings are being put in order.

Public Works.

6. The roads were maintained at a cost of 3,857*l.*, and the sum of 429*l.* was spent in the general repairs of public buildings.

7. The public hospital commenced in December 1885 was completed in the year at a total cost of 8,686*l.* It was formally opened on the 21st of June, the day observed as the Jubilee of Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen, when it was named "The

Victoria Hospital." The sum of 3,268*l.* was spent on it in the year under report.

8. The police barrack in the town of Vieux Fort was re-built, giving greater accommodation to the police, and by removal to it of the non-commissioned officers' quarters affording greater space to the magistrate's court. The cost of this work was 208*l.*

9. The jetty at the town of Soufrière was repaired for the sum of 153*l.*, and jetties were erected at the towns of Choiseul and Laborie, the former costing 579*l.* and the latter 602*l.* The erection of these jetties was undertaken because the inhabitants of these towns pointed out to the Government the difficulties experienced in getting to and from the coasting steamers, and the extortionate prices exacted from them by boatmen for taking off their fruit and vegetables. The funds of the towns were not sufficient to meet the expenses of these jetties, about one half of which was advanced from the general revenue of the Colony.

10. Good progress was made in the Castries Harbour improvements. The inner shoal which obstructed the harbour opposite to the northern wharf was entirely removed, and a large part of the market shoal to the west of the wharf was taken away. Dredging was also done to the depth of 18 feet through a part of this shoal to admit of steamers of 300 feet coming to the western wharf.

11. The new concrete wharf was pushed on, and the space between it and the old wharf was partly filled in with coral dredgings, which were also largely used in filling up the eastern end of the harbour, behind the rubble embankment, which is to be reclaimed from the sea.

12. Upwards of 70,000*l.* had been expended on these works at the end of the year, and a further loan has since been raised for their completion.

Legislation.

13. Nineteen Ordinances were passed in 1887. With the object of preparing for publication a revised edition of the statute laws of the Colony an Ordinance, No. 4 of 3rd June, was framed conferring on Chief Justice Carrington, who had very considerately offered to undertake gratuitously the labour of consolidation, certain powers to enable him to proceed expeditiously with the work, and authorising the Governor to make the necessary payments for preparing and putting the edition through the press.

14. An Ordinance, No. 2 of 1st April, authorised the raising of a loan of 10,000*l.* for the purchase of preference shares of the St. Lucia Central Sugar Factory Company, Limited; and another, No. 16 of 9th December, authorised the Governor in Executive Council to raise loans not exceeding 50,000*l.* in all for permanent public works and for the construction of roads.

15. A native of St. Lucia, who had emigrated to China and had succeeded in saving money, bequeathed by his will about 2,000*l.* to certain trustees for the support of the poor in Castries. The trustees named having with one exception died before appropria-

ting the trust money the surviving trustee applied to the Government to relieve her of the trust and to take over and apply the money in terms of the will. For this purpose an Ordinance, No. 8 of 14th October, was passed appointing the members of the Executive Council and their successors in office trustees for the purposes of the will.

16. In order that the Secretary of State for War may acquire, from time to time as necessary, property in land or otherwise for purposes of defence, an Ordinance, No. 9 of 14th October, was brought into force, whereby any required property may at once be acquired and taken possession of by proclamation of the Governor, and the value thereof be subsequently ascertained by agreement or by appraisement.

17. In view of making the revised edition of the laws as perfect as possible, Ordinances were introduced during the year on subjects which had been dealt with in other Colonies but which had been omitted in this, and the opportunity was taken of amending many old laws. These have swelled the number of Ordinances which have been passed in the year but do not call for particular notice.

Councils.

18. Mr. W. H. Hyndman Jones, an official member of the Executive and of the Legislative Councils, left the Colony early in the year and Mr. William Low was appointed in his place to both Councils. Mr. James Macfarlane was appointed by Her Majesty in February an unofficial member of the Legislative Council in the place of Mr. John S. Moffat, who had died late in the previous year.

Civil Establishment.

19. There were a few changes under this head. Mr. Charles Meagher resigned the office of chief clerk in the Treasury, Mr. Mitchell, the second clerk, succeeded to the vacancy, and Mr. Hunter, the third clerk, obtained a step, Mr. Lionel Devaux being appointed third clerk.

20. Mr. Kenneth Reid was appointed colonial engineer and surveyor, displacing Mr. John W. Wilson, who had been acting in the office since 1884.

21. Mr. W. H. Hyndman Jones, LL.B., the magistrate of the first district, was promoted to Grenada, and Mr. Low, who had been acting as magistrate of St. George's, Grenada, from April 1883, was appointed to the first district in this Colony.

22. At the end of June Dr. J. G. Williams was suspended and subsequently dismissed from his office of Colonial Assistant Surgeon, and Dr. Lestrade, from St. Kitts, was appointed in his place.

ST. LUCIA.

Pensions.

23. There was not any addition to the pension list in the year. One pensioner, John Dick, died and his pension of 202*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* fell in, by which the number of pensioners was reduced to nine and the amount of the list to 1,014*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*

Population.

24. The natural increase in the year was 510; and the approximate population at the close of 1887 was placed by the Registrar General at 42,301, of which 20,786 were males and 21,425 females. These figures must, however, as I explained in my previous reports, be looked on as most doubtful owing to the emigration to Panama, of which there was no record.

25. The births were 1,545 (789 males and 756 females), of which 97 were still-births; excluding the latter the birth rate was 3·46 per cent. of the population, the lowest on record, previous rates having varied between 4·76 and 3·60 per cent.

26. The legitimate births (including still-births) numbered 510, and the illegitimate 1,035. Large as was the proportion of illegitimate births the Registrar General reports "this is a return "to the normal condition of things in this respect, for the illegiti- "mate births in the preceding year had reached 71·32 per cent. "of the total births."

27. The deaths were 1,035, and, excluding the still-born, the death rate was 2·22 per cent. This the Registrar reports is one quarter per cent. less than "the average rate struck between the "years 1869 and 1882."

28. Infant mortality was rather below former rates, it having been 20·70 per cent. of children under one year, 13·53 of children between one and five years, and 40·33 per cent. of all ages under fifteen years.

29. This Colony has the reputation abroad of being a dangerous place to reside in owing to its abounding in venomous serpents. There is but one serpent, the Fer-de-lance, whose bite is venomous. The deaths in the past year from serpent bites were 11, or about one in 4,000 of the population. Danger to life from the bite of this serpent is also much exaggerated, a cure being commonly effected unless the person bitten remains some time without treatment.

Savings Bank.

30. The business of this institution steadily advances in each succeeding year. Opened in 1871 the bank had on deposit on

1st January 1884, 1,332*l.* from 178 depositors, on 1st January 1885, 2,851*l.* from 233 depositors, at the same period in 1886, 4,416*l.* from 267 depositors, at the commencement of 1887, 6,538*l.* from 296 depositors, and at the close of the year 8,567*l.* from 438 depositors.

31. The funds have been invested from time to time, and were held at the end of 1887 as under:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In New South Wales inscribed stock at 3½ per cent. - -	2,000	0	0
In Canadian stock at 3½ per cent. -	2,000	0	0
In Barbados Government debentures at 4 per cent. - -	1,000	0	0
In the Colonial Bank at 3 per cent.	2,000	0	0
In the Colonial Bank, current account - - - -	1,567	0	0
	8,567	0	0

Imports and Exports.

32. The gross value of imported goods was 115,626*l.* The value of goods from the United Kingdom was 58,736*l.*, from British Colonies 15,469*l.*, and from foreign countries 41,421*l.* Of the goods from foreign countries those from the United States were valued at 27,474*l.*, from France 10,496*l.*, and from French West Indies 2,281*l.* The imports from Barbados were of the value of 12,560*l.*, and from St. Vincent 1,816*l.*; the imports from British Colonies and foreign countries other than above named were very trifling in value.

33. The gross value of exported goods was 117,743*l* Of this 95,562*l.* was the value of the produce and manufactures of the Colony. Specie to the value of 17,130*l.* was exported as follows:— To the United Kingdom in worn coin 305*l.*, in foreign gold to the United States 9,686*l.*, to Trinidad 5,500*l.*, and British and foreign gold to Barbados 1,639*l.* The foreign gold was the result of the earnings of natives of St. Lucia working on the canal at the Isthmus of Panama.

34. In 1886 the value of exports was 105,207*l.*, and of exports, the produce and manufacture of the Colony, 84,638*l.*; so that the value of the total exports in the past year exceeded that of the previous year by 12,536*l.* and that of the produce of the Colony by 10,924*l.*

ST. LUCIA.

35. The quantities and values of the principal products of the Colony exported in the past three years are shown below:—

Articles.	Countries.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Cocoa		Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
	United Kingdom	143,376	312,778	419,940
	United States	—	—	1,020
	France	305,318	228,580	188,838
	Barbados	1,213	4,960	840
	French West Indies	2,200	—	—
	Colon	—	450	—
	Total	452,107	546,768	610,638
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		12,109 5 0	17,086 10 0	21,808 10 0
Hides		No.	No.	No.
	United Kingdom	200	388	796
	United States	288	1,681	176
	French West Indies	1,338	604	968
	Total	1,826	2,673	1,940
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		273 14 0	424 19 0	490 4 0
Logwood		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
	United Kingdom	70	31	221½
	France	10	—	—
	French West Indies	—	46	276
	British West Indies	—	21	—
	Total	80	98	497½
		£	£	£
		160	196	2,300
Rum		Galls.	Galls.	Galls.
	France	10,115	796	6,976
	Barbados	—	492	—
	French West Indies	508	—	384
	United Kingdom	10,041	—	—
	Spanish West Indies	384	—	—
	Colon	1,118	1,138	509
	Total	22,166	2,426	7,869
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		1,293 0 4	121 6 0	393 9 0

Articles.	Countries.	1885.	1886.	1887.
		Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Sugar (Usine)	United Kingdom -	4,346,200	2,644,600	1,805,000
	United States -	405,200	3,093,900	4,451,800
	France - -	—	—	200
	Grenada - -	24,200	14,000	8,200
	St. Vincent - -	2,000	600	246
	Antigua - -	1,000	—	—
	Dominica - -	400	—	200
	Barbados - -	—	114,600	—
	Montserrat - -	—	1,218	—
	French West Indies -	—	200	—
	Colon - -	—	200	5,000
	Total -	4,779,000	5,869,318	6,295,646
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		40,223 5 0	41,923 14 0	45,671 10 9
		Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Sugar (Muscovado)	United Kingdom -	3,710,400	200	—
	United States -	5,307,700	3,685,900	3,620,500
	Martinique - -	500	—	—
	Grenada - -	—	2,000	400
	St. Vincent - -	—	400	600
	Danish West Indies -	—	200	—
	Colon - -	—	2,000	2,000
	Total - -	9,018,600	3,690,700	3,623,500
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		56,366 5 0	18,947 15 10	20,220 8 6
		Galls.	Galls.	Galls.
Molasses	French West Indies -	379,249	215,804	204,480
	United Kingdom -	2,158	—	2,600
	Total -	381,407	215,804	207,080
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
		6,356 15 8	3,596 14 8	3,451 6 8

36. It will be seen that attention is being given to the cultivation of cocoa, and that the export of it is steadily increasing. The price in the European markets for logwood caused a larger quantity to be cut for shipment; for a few years prior to 1887 the demand for this wood did not encourage shippers. The manufacture of Muscovado sugar was maintained as in 1886, and the output of the Usines was fairly increased. Rum which had decreased in quantity as an export in 1886 was again shipped in larger quantity.

ST. LUCIA.

Shipping.

37. The following tables exhibit the number, tonnage, and crews of vessels which entered and cleared in 1887, and in the three previous years :—

Inwards.

		1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Sailing vessels	No.	219	224	242	241
	Tons	20,050	14,077	12,177	12,900
	Crews	1,415	1,245	1,215	1,244
Steamers	No.	189	199	203	233
	Tons	191,150	201,056	205,775	236,320
	Crews	7,433	7,559	7,730	8,782
Total	No.	408	423	445	474
	Tons	211,200	215,133	217,952	249,220
	Crews	8,848	8,804	8,945	9,522

Outwards.

		1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Sailing vessels	No.	213	225	240	237
	Tons	19,651	14,245	11,789	12,814
	Crews	1,389	1,272	1,200	1,243
Steamers	No.	189	200	202	233
	Tons	191,150	201,695	205,687	236,320
	Crews	7,433	7,569	7,715	8,278
Total	No.	402	425	442	470
	Tons	210,801	215,940	217,476	249,134
	Crews	8,822	8,841	8,915	9,521

38. These figures show a steady annual increase in the shipping trade.

39. In 1886 six ships of Her Majesty's navy, four foreign ships of war, two yachts, and 74 other vessels coaled in the port of Castries. In 1887 the number that coaled were:—

British men-of-war - - - -	9
Foreign men-of-war - - - -	4
Yachts - - - - -	1
Other ships - - - -	126
Total - - - -	140

Taking in all 17,758 tons of coal.

Education.

40. No change was made in the educational system, and the returns under this head exhibit much the same results as in the previous year.

41. There were 11 schools conducted under the direction of Lady Mico's Trustees, at which there was an average daily attendance of 783 children. The trustees provide the schoolrooms and teachers' residences, and they contribute 240*l.* a year to the maintenance of the schools. The children's pence collected amounted to 167*l.* 19*s.* The Government aided these schools to the extent of 625*l.*

42. Eleven schools were under the priests of the Roman Catholic Church as patrons, who provide the schoolrooms but contribute only a trifling sum from their parish funds in the support of the schools. The average daily attendance in these schools was 1,104. The children's pence amounted to 149*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, and the Government aid extended to these schools was 625*l.*

43. Mr. Joseph A. Carrington, Assistant Inspector of Schools in Barbados, was engaged to examine all the schools. This was the very first year in which a public examination of the Roman Catholic Schools was held.

44. In his report the Inspector remarked: "This is the first "occasion on which there has been an examination of all the "schools by a Government Inspector, and it was very pleasant to "witness the interest taken by teachers and pupils in almost "every instance, and to hear the desire generally expressed that "the inspection may be continued annually. The readiness of "managers and trustees to adopt suggestions made by the "Inspector was also very gratifying. The number of pupils seen "by me on the days of inspection amount altogether to 2,193, "which I believe is about 6 per cent. of the whole population "of the island. In Barbados the number of children seen at the "annual examinations during last year was 15,300, or about "8½ per cent. of the entire population. . . . On the whole

ST. LUCIA

" I think the Government have every cause to be much pleased " with the condition of the schools."

45. In addition to the schools above mentioned there were three schools for coolie children in centres where there were a large number of Indian immigrants. One of these schools which had been established in 1886 was examined by the Inspector, who reported on it as follows: " This school is held chiefly for the " coolie children, but Creoles are also welcomed. Master is of " the same nationality as his pupils. I saw 25 coolies and five " Creoles. The pupils were orderly, tidy, and intelligent."

46. These schools were established, one in 1886 and two in 1887, under the auspices of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission to Indian immigrants in Trinidad. This Mission furnishes the teachers, and expended in 1887 45*l.* in support of the schools, the Government paying 95*l.*, and the employers of the parents of the coolie children providing the schoolrooms and teachers' residences.

Criminal Statistics.

47. There were fewer offences reported to the police and a considerable diminution in the number of persons brought before the magistrates in the year 1887 as compared with the three previous years.

48. The summary convictions were also less in number. Convictions for praedial larceny and for offences against property other than praedial larceny maintained the rate of previous years, but convictions for offences against the person and for other offences were fewer.

49. In the Superior Court the convictions (15) were the same in number as in 1886, but considerably less than in 1884 and 1885. There was no case of murder, wife murder, or other serious offence against the person.

50. Crime, therefore, may fairly be said to have been confined to minor offences, and not to have prevailed even in these to any extent.

Gaols and Prisoners.

51. In 1887 there were 414 commitments to prison. Of these 100 were committed for safe custody or for want of security, and 314 for penal imprisonment. Of those for penal imprisonment 29 had been committed three or more times previously, 40 twice, and 53 once before. Three were committed for five years or more, seven for one year or more but less than five years, 13 for more that three months but less than one year, and 291 for three months or less.

52. The daily average in gaol was 58; the number of admissions to hospital was 20, and the daily average on the sick list was one. There was no death.

53. The commitments in the previous year were less by 49, and for penal imprisonment less by 51. But the health of the gaol in 1887, notwithstanding the greater number of commitments, was very much better.

Hospitals and Asylums.

54. The principal hospital is a new building recently erected, and into which the patients from the temporary hospital were removed in September. It was formally opened and named the "Victoria Hospital" on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee.

55. The work of the hospitals and asylums is shown in the annexed table :—

Hospitals.	No. in Hospital on 1st Jan. 1887.	No. admitted in the year.	Total under treatment.	Daily average.	Discharged.			No. of deaths.	Per-centage of deaths under treatment.
					Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.		
Victoria (Castries) - -	100	2,141	2,241	111	2,062	14	—	56	2·5 (nearly)
Soufrière - - - -	19	246	265	15	197	39	—	12	4·5
Vieux Fort - - -	6	154	160	6	99	25	15	6	3·6
Dennery - - - -	16	330	346	25	297	28	—	4	1·15
Yaws - - - -	90	130	220	104	129	—	—	2	·8
Poor and incurable - -	63	224	287	62	49	125	—	54	18·8
Total - -	294	3,225	3,519	—	2,833	231	15	134	3·80

56. The Vieux Fort Hospital was closed for three months in consequence of the district being without a resident medical officer. Were the poor and incurable hospital excluded from the above table the death rate of the five hospitals would not exceed 2·47.

57. In the lunatic asylum there were 10 admissions in the year. The daily average was 19. Two deaths occurred; two patients were discharged cured and three relieved.

58. There were nine dispensaries for out-door patients. At the Castries Dispensary 12,569 cases were treated, and in the eight other districts 6,515 cases.

General Remarks.

59. From the foregoing report it may be seen that the Colony is holding up notwithstanding the severe depression suddenly brought upon it by the sugar crisis four years ago, and that its prospects are improving.

60. The failure in the middle of 1886 of the company that owned the Dennery Factory created an alarm for the moment;

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but the Government stepped in to carry on the cultivation and to prevent the abandonment of the crop for 1886. The factory was brought to sale at the close of the year, when it was purchased by the Colonial Bank, which was a large creditor of the bankrupt company. The bank very quickly succeeded in disposing of their purchase to a company formed in London, who are working the estate judiciously, with advantage to the Colony and no doubt to themselves.

61. There are four sugar fatories at work in the Colony; and there is room for at least one other in the best sugar growing district of the island. Even at present prices the factories if unencumbered should yield fair returns to their shareholders.

62. Rum is an industry that is found to give profits; and though it is not manufactured in the quantities of four or five years ago it is engaging more attention than in recent years.

63. Several sales of Crown land were effected to peasant proprietors, and in this way eight lots, containing 144 acres, were disposed of at the price of 1*l.* per acre. The purchase money is made payable in instalments, extending over three or four years, according to the size of the lot, and thus easy terms are allowed to purchasers.

64. A tract of Crown land of 130 acres was surveyed by the Government in three lots of 27½ acres each and one of 47½ acres, and were put up to auction sale. They sold readily for 244*l.* 10*s.*

65. House property in and around Castries has advanced wonderfully in value in the past three years. Lots which a few years ago were worth little are now selling for high prices, and rents of shops and of dwelling-houses have been largely increased. A number of houses, both large and small, have recently been erected in Castries and the suburbs, and everything indicates increasing prosperity though it may yet be of a limited character.

66. The Botanical Station established early in the year on the most unpretending basis was advanced very creditably. The following extract from the report of a committee appointed by me to supervise the work of the curator shows their appreciation of the progress made:—

"Considering the difficulties incidental to the starting of such an undertaking, the peculiar nature of the ground, and the limited funds available for the purpose, the work thus far accomplished is, in the opinion of the committee, satisfactory.

"The most encouraging feature of Mr. Gray's report is the evidence which is furnished of the general appreciation of the advantages offered to agriculturists by the station, and the intelligent recognition of its use as evinced by an increasing disposition to seek advice and information from the curator, and to look to the station for reliable seeds and plants."

67. Many plants of cocoa, coffee, nutmegs, and other valuable plants have already been purchased from this station by persons desirous of extending the cultivation of them; and the curator, Mr. John Gray, is always most ready to give information touching

the culture and treatment of reproductive plants as well as of flowering and other garden shrubs. I am hopeful of great benefit to the Colony by the establishment of this station; but more land will have to be acquired for its extension.

68. In September 1887 an epidemic of small-pox broke out in Martinique, only about 20 miles from the shores of St. Lucia. Strict quarantine had to be enforced against the island to the great injury of trade and at much expense to this Colony. Happily St. Lucia has been kept free of the disease up to the date of this report; and as the accounts from Martinique of its sanitary condition are now more favourable it is to be hoped this Colony may escape entirely the dreadful disease.

(Signed) EDWARD LABORDE.

Government House, St. Lucia,
August 22, 1888.

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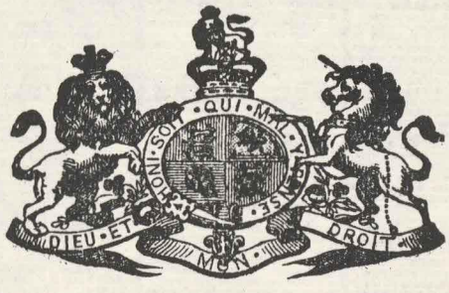
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 25.

ST. VINCENT.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249.– 22.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	1888	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements - -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	1
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report) -	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1½
24	Straits (Penang and Malacca)	„	3

No. 25.

ST. VINCENT.

[For previous Reports *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4904]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3388].]

Administrator Laborde to Lord Knutsford.

Saint Lucia, July 21, 1888.

Forwarded.

Edward Laborde,
Administrator-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c.

Government House, St. Vincent,
July 16, 1888.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward six copies of the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1887, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. Lewelyn,
Administrator.

His Hon. Edward Laborde, Esq., C.M.G.,
Administrator-in-Chief of the
Windward Islands.

Report on the Blue Book of St. Vincent for the Year 1887.

Taxes.

1. No new taxes were levied during the year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The total revenue of the year, exclusive of sums borrowed and advanced, amounted to 23,661*l.* and the expenditure to 29,720*l.*, and the deficit increased to the sum of 5,018*l.* 14*s.*

55365. Wt. 11980.

Public Debt.

3. The debt of the Colony consisted of the following on the 31st December :—

	£
Immigration Loan - - -	5,000
Government House building - -	2,400
Public buildings - - -	1,600
Survey Crown Lands - - -	920
Total -	9,920

The above loans all carry interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Public Works.

4. Owing to the damage done to the public buildings by the cyclone in August 1886, it was necessary to raise a loan for their repair, and at the same time it was arranged that two new police stations should be opened.

The sum of 1,268*l.* was spent out of the loan of 1,600*l.* and about 580*l.* from general revenue on repairs, furniture, &c.

No new work was done to the roads, but keeping them in fair order cost the sum of 1,144*l.*

Legislation.

5. Twenty-six Ordinances were passed during the year, and included the revision and consolidation of the law on the following important subjects :—

Excise; police; registration of births, deaths, and marriages; income and land tax, and bankruptcy.

Councils.

6. Wm. E. Hughes and Henry A. Hazell were appointed unofficial members of the Executive Council on the 7th of March, and Gerrit Van Heyningen, the Police Magistrate, Kingstown District, was appointed to an official seat in the Legislative Council, but does not sit when the Governor-in-Chief presides.

Civil Establishment.

7. His Excellency Walter J. Sendall, Esquire, C.M.G., resided in the Island, except during a few short visits to the other Windward Islands, from the 1st January to the 17th November; and the office of Administrator and Colonial Secretary remained unfilled during the whole year.

Mr. P. F. Huggins was appointed Postmaster on the 1st June, and Dr. W. F. Newsam succeeded Dr. Arnott as Colonial Surgeon on the 1st January.

Mr. Gerrit Van Heyningen was appointed Police Magistrate, Kingstown District, on the 1st January, in the room of Mr. J. C. Choppin, who resigned that office, but continued to hold that of Attorney General.

Pensions.

8. Dr. Sandford Arnott, Colonial Surgeon, retired on a pension on the 1st of January, and Mr. Gore, formerly Lieutenant Governor and Colonial Secretary, to whom a pension of 58*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* had been awarded in November 1886, died on the 21st September.

Imports and Exports.

9. The total value of the imports was only 80,000*l.*, a falling off of ten per cent. on the previous year, and 20 per cent. less than in 1885.

The total value of exports amounted to 85,000*l.* compared with 70,000*l.* in 1886. This increase of 15,000*l.* was made up by 5,000*l.* in arrowroot and 9,000*l.* in sugar, the remainder being distributed through the other items, which were much the same as in the previous year. Eighty per cent. of the sugar exported went to the United States, but hardly any of the other articles, and nearly the whole of the arrowroot was sent to England.

Vital Statistics.

10. The population at the beginning of the year was estimated to be 45,000, and the excess of births over deaths during the year amounted to 813. The death rate was 22·7 per thousand, which is rather below the average, and shows the healthiness of the Island.

Education.

11. As there is no regular inspector of schools, it is difficult to give any detailed report on the condition of education in this Island.

Apparently from the tables, the numbers on the registers and the average attendance have both decreased; but the number of children present on the day of examination is larger than in the previous year.

The total expenditure on education was 2,107*l.*, as compared with 2,538*l.* in the previous year.

Grants of Land.

12. Seventeen small lots of land were sold to peasant proprietors, amounting in the aggregate to thirty acres. This is the commencement of the scheme started for selling Crown lands in small lots.

Prison.

13. The daily average number in prison was only 28, a considerable decrease on any previous year for some time. The cost for maintenance, exclusive of establishments, is apparently about 12*l.* per head.

Criminal Statistics.

14. With such a large decrease in the number of prisoners above referred to, it is hardly necessary to add that the criminal statistics show a very marked decrease in every respect.

Only four cases were sent for trial to the Supreme Court.

Hospital.

15. The daily average number in the hospital was 50, and the net expenditure, including wages, &c. of servants, amounted to 1,124*l.*, which shows the annual cost of each patient to have been 22*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, or 1*s.* 3*d.* per diem.

General Remarks.

16. As I did not arrive in this Island until nearly four months had elapsed after the close of the year which this Report embraces, it is hardly to be expected that I should make any remarks; but I hope it may be found hereafter to have been the worst year the Island has ever experienced.

R. B. Lewelyn,
Administrator.

11th July 1888.

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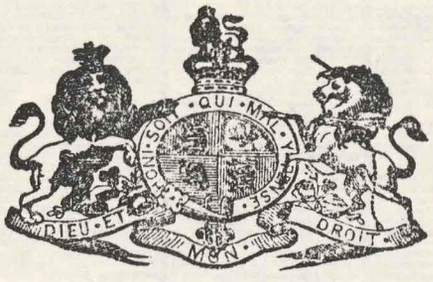
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 11.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
June 1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249.–8.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts.)	1888	1
9	Heligoland - - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1

No. 11.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

[For previous reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4904]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4404]; 1882 [C.—4015].]

Government House, Penang,
April 3, 1888.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of the report on the Blue Book for the year 1887.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Cecil C. Smith.

The Right Hon.
The Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c.
Colonial Office.

Report on the Straits Settlements Blue Book for the Year 1887.

Finance.

1. The revenue of the Colony received during the year 1887 amounted to $3,847,475, or an increase of $99,947 over 1886; and the expenditure actually incurred during the year amounted to $3,510,545, giving a surplus on the year's transactions of $336,930.

2. The following comparative statement gives particulars of the principal items of the revenue and expenditure in 1886 and 1887:—

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
——	1886.	1887.	——	1886.	1887.
	$	$		$	$
Land - - -	383,780	403,520	Salaries - - -	1,047,412	1,182,399
Licenses - - -	2,441,400	2,441,400	Contingencies and allowances - - -	38,355	44,168
Stamps - - -	341,846	351,462	Pensions - - -	91,294	94,167
Port and harbour dues -	75,375	104,368	Revenue services -	62,877	62,256
Postal - - -	109,030	115,650	Education - -	78,642	75,048
Fines and Fees of Court, Fees of Office - -	68,786	90,139	Medical - - -	106,014	117,157
Reimbursements - -	111,143	130,552	Police - - -	70,575	74,540
Carried forward -	3,531,360	3,637,091	Carried forward -	1,495,169	1,649,735

o 54556. Wt. 18427

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
——	1886.	1887.	——	1886.	1887.
	$	$		$	$
Brought forward -	3,531,360	3,637,091	Brought forward -	1,495,169	1,649,735
Interest - - -	132,490	142,635	Gaols - - -	69,643	64,616
Miscellaneous - -	83,651	67,749	Marine department -	84,352	90,872
			Postal - - -	60,981	59,571
			Transport - - -	70,412	72,002
			Interest - - -	77,729	57,213
			Miscellaneous services -	190,327	186,998
			Public works - -	1,164,590	1,028,881
			Military expenditure -	241,059	240,215
			Other votes - -	41,377	60,442
Total - -	3,747,501	3,847,475	Total - -	3,495,639	3,510,545

3. The following comparative statement gives the total revenue of the three Settlements estimated and actual for 1886 and 1887 :—

——	1886.		1887.	
	Estimated.	Actual.	Estimated.	Actual.
	$	$	$	$
Singapore - -	2,178,404	2,238,151	2,180,380	2,265,372
Penang - - -	1,244,670	1,216,690	1,194,150	1,275,312
Malacca - - -	287,565	292,660	295,470	306,791

4. The following statement gives particulars of the assets and liabilities on the 1st January, 1887, and 1st January, 1888 :—

Assets.			Liabilities.		
——	1st January 1887.	1st January 1888.	——	1st January 1887.	1st January. 1888.
	$	$		$	$
Cash on current accounts or on fixed deposit with local banks - -	440,529	434,309	Debenture loan -	250,461	200,615
			Deposits, &c. - -	212,290	258,334
Balance on Crown Agents' account and Bills -	29,758	38,804	Expenditure in arrears -	11,788	*13,400
Invested in Government of India loans - -	500,000	850,000		474,539	472,349
Loans to Native States -	164,000	114,000			
Loans to Municipalities -	442,500	446,500	Net balance to the credit of the Colony -	1,334,716	1,642,807
Miscellaneous advances, &c. &c. - - -	181,263	183,881			
Singapore defences	41,262	41,262			
Revenue in arrears -	9,943	*6,400			
Total - -	1,809,255	2,115,156	Total -	1,809,255	2,115,156

* These amounts are approximate only, as the Indian accounts for December had not been received up to date.

The reserve fund, invested in Indian securities, still stands at $500,000; but an additional sum of $350,000 was invested in India last year as a temporary measure. The balances on the 31st December in the local banks have been decreased from $414,076 to $391,048.

5. The downward course of exchange continued, as shewn in the following table:—

Bank Bills.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*
On London:— Sterling, on demand, Highest -	3 4⅛	3 3⅞	3 3	3 1¾	3 1½	3 1½	3 1⅝	3 2⅜	3 2⅜	3 2	3 1¾	3 2
Lowest -	3 3½	3 2¾	3 1⅜	3 0¼	3 0⅞	3 0⅞	3 1	3 1½	3 1¾	3 1½	3 1⅛	3 1⅜

The highest rate of exchange during the year was in January, viz., 3*s.* 4⅛*d.*, and the lowest rate of exchange during the year was in April, viz., 3*s.* 0¼*d.* The average for the year was 3*s.* $1\frac{15}{16}d.$

Revenue.

6. The following particulars give the land revenue collected in 1887. It is steadily progressive.

	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
	$	$	$
Premium on leases - - -	130,935	10,303	3,358
Special sales - - - -	56,878	—	—
Rents - - - - -	37,613	38,263	62,374
Tenths and royalties, &c. - -	2,831	5,671	8,074
Beach rents - - - -	6,110	179	—
Registration, notices, &c. - -	10,575	12,465	340
Miscellaneous - - - -	3,190	3,287*	2,326
Total - - -	†248,132	70,168	76,472

* This includes $1,647·28 recovered from "expenses of preliminary survey."

† In addition to this amount a sum of $8,617 was collected under "Land Revenue" at the Dindings.

The total increase in land revenue compared with 1886 is $19,740.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

7. All the other heads of revenue show an advance upon the similar items last year, viz.:—

	$
Stamps - - - - -	9,600
Postage - - - - -	6,600
Harbour- - - - -	29,000
Interest - - - - -	10,200
Fines, &c. - - - -	31,400

The only item in which there is increased taxation to account for the advance is that of "harbour," in which the charge for light dues of three annas per ton instead of two annas was recently restored.

Expenditure.

8. The following are the principal works undertaken, carried on, or completed in 1887:—

Principal Works.	Estimated Cost.	Actual Payments, Completed Works.		Actual Payments, Works in progress.	
		1887.	Prior to 1887.	1887.	Prior to 1887.
SINGAPORE.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1. New police station at Havelock Road -	11,000 00	10,985 05	—	—	—
2. Public recreation ground - - - -	17,000 00	—	—	9,983 48	998 87
3. Extra accommodation, criminal prison -	34,500 00	—	—	16,101 13	—
4. Raising and roofing existing native wards and special service, general hospital -	13,650 00	13,600 08	—	—	—
5. Extension of public offices - - -	45,000 00	—	—	22,696 69	—
6. Extension of Government printing office -	13,000 00	12,911 39	—	—	—
7. Erection of first order light at Horsburgh Lighthouse - -	26,600 00	24,752 64	—	—	—
8. Extension of Teluk Ayer - - - - -	200,000 00	—	—	9,942 87	—
9. New lunatic asylum -	239,854 00	—	—	59,428 98	171,249 72
10. Library and museum -	83,530 00	20,935 52	57,343 71	—	—
11. New river wall and quay, North and South Kampong, Malacca - - - - -	100,400 00	—	—	21,284 39	71,806 44
PENANG. *Civil Works and Buildings.*					
1. Reclamation scheme -	518,914 00	—	—	39,099 83	417,375 52
2. New landing jetty (final vote) - -	33,000 00	—	—	23,807 97	1,061 64
3. New Government offices (fourth vote) -	250,000 00	—	—	48,689 52	27,468 76
4. Resident Councillor's house (on an estimate of $50,000) (first vote) - - - - -	50,000 00	—	—	10,000 00	—
5. Houses for District Magistrates at Balik Pulau and Bukit Mertajam - - -	10,000 00	9,999 99	—	—	—
6. Two additional wards at pauper hospital, and extending and enclosing hospital compound - - -	11,000 00	10,999 84	—	—	—

Principal Works.	Estimated Cost.	Actual Payments. Completed Works.		Actual Payments. Works in progress.	
		1887.	Prior to 1887.	1887.	Prior to 1887.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
7. Nibong Tebal water supply (re-vote) -	26,632 47	671 00	25,958 82	—	—
8. Renewing Butterworth Police Barracks (re-vote) - -	13,530 00	446 27	13,067 40	—	—
Roads, Streets, and Bridges.					
1. Re-metalling road from Sungei Bakap to Nibong Tebal (final vote) - -	17,050 00	6,499 97	10,549 90	—	—
2. Re-metalling second class road from Bukit Mertajam to Permatang Pau (on an estimate of $35,000) (first vote) - - - -	35,000 00	—	—	9,999 49	—
3. Constructing second class road in Trans-Krian (final vote) -	22,000 00	6,999 76	14,997 97	—	—
4. Constructing second class road from Nior Sebatang to Kubang Semang, *viâ* Padang Manorah (second vote) - - - -	18,000 00	—	—	4,999 79	4,999 95
5. Widening of Jalan Bharu (on an estimate of $15,000) (first vote) - - - -	15,000 00	—	—	5,999 53	—
6. Completion of Ghinting Road - - -	81,500 00	8,998 92	72,498 94	—	—
MALACCA.					
1. New pier - - -	37,000 00	—	—	17,454 63	8,239 24
2. Construction of dams and sluices for irrigation of padi lands -	5,000 00	—	—	4,299 45	—
3. Opening up old road from Merlimau to Chin Chin - - -	8,000 00	—	—	4,809 62	—

Municipalities.

9. The following statement gives the actual revenue and expenditure, cash balances, and outstanding loans of the municipalities of the three Settlements respectively, for 1886 and 1887 :—

Municipalities.	1886.	1887.
REVENUE:	$	$
Singapore - - - -	464,748	479,652
Penang - - - -	220,447	274,144
Malacca - - - -	27,399	27,050
	712,594	780,846
EXPENDITURE:		
Singapore - - - -	486,173	464,423
Penang - - - -	234,937	248,669
Malacca - - - -	29,026	26,540
	750,136	739,632

Municipalities.	1886.	1887.
	$	$
CASH BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR		
Singapore	17,085	15,228
Penang	16,443	25,475
Malacca	648	2,809
	34,176	43,512
LOANS OUTSTANDING AT CLOSE OF YEAR:		
Singapore	230,000	229,000
Penang	187,500	173,500
Malacca	25,000	29,000
	442,500	431,500

LEGISLATION.

10. The most important legislative enactment of the past year is the new Municipal Ordinance (No. IX. of 1887), under which many important changes have been made in regard to fiscal and other matters of administration.

Ordinances.

The following Ordinances were passed, and up to the present date, Ordinances Nos. I to X., XII., XIII., XIV., XVI., and XVII. have received the gracious confirmation and allowance of Her Majesty the Queen.

No. I.—An Ordinance to make further provision for the protection of women and girls.

No. II.—An Ordinance to amend "The Prisons Ordinance, 1872," and to remove certain doubts respecting the legality of the removal of prisoners to Singapore from the other Settlements.

No. III.—An Ordinance to amend "The Registration of Deeds Ordinance, 1886."

No. IV.—An Ordinance to amend "The Prince of Wales' Island Tramways Ordinance, 1885."

No. V.—An Ordinance for making final provision for the public service for the year 1886.

No. VI.—An Ordinance relating to wrecks, sea casualties and salvage.

No. VII.—An Ordinance for securing the status of German mail steamers.

No. VIII.—An Ordinance for regulating the pensions of officers in the public service.

No. IX.—An Ordinance for consolidating and amending the law relating to municipal government.

No. X.—An Ordinance to provide for the marking of deck and load-lines on steam vessels registered in the Colony of the Straits Settlements.

No. XI.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to burials and burying grounds.

No. XII.—An Ordinance to make further provision for the grant of probate and letters of administration where the estate is of small value.

No. XIII.—An Ordinance to provide for the periodical inspection of steam boilers and prime movers.

No. XIV.—An Ordinance for securing the status of French mail steamers.

No. XV.—An Ordinance for making provision for the public service for the year 1888.

No. XVI.—An Ordinance for postponing the date for the coming into operation of "The Burials Ordinance, 1887."

No. XVII.—An Ordinance to amend "The Stamp Ordinances, 1881 and 1885."

No. XVIII.—An Ordinance for regulating the exportation of arms, ammunition, and naval and military stores.

No. XIX.—An Ordinance to prevent unauthorised persons from trespassing on or making sketches of fortifications and other naval or military works or positions.

Registration of Deeds.

11. The new department for the registration of deeds under Ordinance XIII. of 1886 was started on the 1st of July, 1887. Great pressure was put upon the department at first, owing to the rush to bring in existing deeds for registration, some of old date and many of great length.

The total number of deeds presented for registration during the half-year was 2,608, of which 1,696 were finally registered. The fees collected in respect of such registration amounted to $5,763.

Bills of sale to the number of 1,885 were also registered by the department, bringing in a sum of $1,058.

Postal Department.

12. The returns of 1887 of letters, post cards, books, newspapers, patterns and parcels shew that there was an increase in each category of correspondence over the number for 1886. In the year under review, 1,493,005 articles were received, and 1,600,348 were despatched, as compared with 1,246,872 and 1,400,646 in the previous year. The number of letters received and despatched shew increases of 246,133 and 199,702, respectively.

13. The total revenue of the department ($115,650) exceeded the amount collected in 1886 by $6,546, to which excess the sale of stamps contributed an increase of $5,657 over the sales of the previous year.

14. The expenditure of the department showed a small increase as compared with 1886.

15. There was an unusually large increase in the total amount of the money order business. Orders to the value of 4,081*l.* were issued on the United Kingdom during the year under review, as

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

compared with 3,515*l.* in 1886. The transactions with the Native States amounted to $26,040, as compared with $23,732. Those with India reached a sum of almost Rs. 181,000, or nearly double the business of 1886. The following summary of the transactions of the three Settlements is instructive:—

	1886.	1887.
	$	$
Singapore - - - -	75,590	105,493
Penang - - - -	50,877	71,117
Malacca - - - -	11,267	12,903
Total - -	137,734	189,513

The money order system with India is rapidly growing, and it has now been extended to most British Colonies and foreign countries.

16. The records show that 85,875 registered articles passed through the Department during the year, as compared with 74,363 in 1886.

17. The number of parcels transmitted by post was 10,663, or 50 per cent. more than in 1886.

Savings Bank.

18. The whole amount of money invested in the Colony's savings bank during 1887 was $78,482, the amount withdrawn $70,222, showing a nett addition of $8,260 to the aggregate investments at the beginning of the year.

19. Particulars of the business transacted by the branches in Singapore, Penang, and Malacca respectively are given in the following statement:—

	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
New accounts opened - - -	253	132	29
Accounts closed - - -	207	87	21
Accounts open at the end of the year -	504	207	34
	$	$	$
Deposited, 1887 - - -	49,608	23,991	4,883
Repaid, 1887 - - -	47,366	19,526	3,330
Balance due to depositors at close of 1887 - - - - -	78,958	28,641	5,140

Education.

The number of schools inspected and of pupils presented for examination in all the Settlements has risen from 176 schools and 6,161 pupils in 1886 to 186 schools and 6,195 pupils in 1887.

20. The number of pupils presented for examination from the aided schools for boys has risen from 1,643 in 1886 to 1,681 at the 1887 inspection; the average attendance was 2,024 as compared with 2,037 in the preceding twelve months.

The number of girls schools inspected was nine.

21. The number of pupils in the Government English schools in average attendance was 1,017 during the year, as against 1,095 in the past year. This decrease in the attendance is due to the falling off in the attendance at the Cross Street School, the Kampong Glam Branch Schools (Chinese and Tamil), and the Malacca High School. There is an increase in Penang.

In these schools 705 pupils were presented for examination, as against 772 presented in 1886, and the passes obtained by the schools as a whole were 87 per cent. of those possible, which was the same percentage as in the previous year.

22. In all, 135 Government vernacular schools were inspected, as against 130 inspected during the year 1886, but the number of pupils presented for examination has fallen off from 3,190 presented in 1886 to 3,128 presented at last inspection. This decrease is due to the large falling off in Malacca. The presentations in Penang were in excess of those in 1886.

The passes obtained by these schools is in the aggregate 79 per cent. of those possible, as against 75 per cent. in 1886.

The number of pupils in "average enrolment" and in "average attendance" at the vernacular schools in the Colony since 1884 is shewn in the following table:—

	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
1884 - - - -	4,661	3,683
1885 - - - -	5,573	4,583
1886 - - - -	5,609	4,524
1887 - - - -	5,194	4,183

The decreases which these figures show call for some explanation. The Inspector of schools reports that "one of the chief difficulties "that has to be contended with is the irregularity in the attend-"ance. The principal reason of this is the poverty of the Malays, "in consequence of which their children are kept at home to "assist in field labour. There is also a great want of a sufficient

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

"number of individuals well-to-do and intelligent who are able "to take the lead in any progressive movement." It is to be hoped that when the system of district administration is more established that some improvement in these matters will follow.

Population.

23. The total numbers of both the births and deaths registered in the Colony show a slight falling off as compared with the previous year.

24. The following statement gives the numbers registered in each Settlement during the past three years :—

Settlement.	Births.		Deaths.	
	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.
Singapore - -	2,887	2,528	6,308	6,165
Dindings - -	55	78	58	90
Penang - - -	1,807	1,912	3,795	3,800
Province Wellesley -	2,551	2,445	2,697	2,706
Malacca - - -	3,205	2,698	2,468	3,163
Total -	10,505	9,661	15,326	15,924

25. As has been explained in previous reports, the ratio of births must always be small as compared with the population, which increases steadily, owing mainly to immigration from China and India, the immigrants including a very small number of females, and the disparity between the sexes being consequently very great.

26. The total population of the Colony at the census taken in 1881 was 423,384. It may now be estimated to have reached at least 536,000.

Chinese Immigration.

27. There were 167,906 Chinese immigrants examined on board vessels and in the landing depôts on their arrival at Singapore, as against 146,862 in 1886. In Singapore there has been an increase of 13,763, and in Penang of 8,162. Of the whole number, 101,094 landed in Singapore, and 65,348 went on to Penang; the numbers in the previous year being 87,331 and 57,186, respectively. Of the Singapore immigrants, 765 proceeded to Malacca, and 3,096 to other places.

28. In Singapore 19,496 and in Penang 22,904 were admitted into the licensed depôts. The number of immigrants whose passages were unpaid was greater by 3,208 than the number in 1886.

29. The number of women who arrived in the Colony was 6,271, as against 4,714 in the preceding year. Of these, 3,037 landed in Singapore, 2,667 went on to Penang, and 567 to other places.

30. There were 51,859 contracts to labour executed in the Colony, as against 45,717 in 1886. Of these, 24,567 were for labour in the Colony and the Protected Native States, and 27,292 for labour in other places.

Indian Immigration.

31. The following are the statistics of the immigration and retro-migration of Indian coolies, as recorded in the department of the Indian Protectorate at Penang:—

	1885.	1886.	1887.
Statute immigrants - -	1,642	2,748	4,736
Dependants - - -	49	244	310
Passengers - - - -	19,819	17,316	12,156
Total arrivals - -	21,510	20,308	17,202
Returned to India - - -	13,417	18,105	12,596
Immigrants remaining in the Colony	8,093	2,203	4,606

The number of arrivals of free immigrants shews a large falling off as compared with the number that arrived in the two preceding years, being 5,160 less than the number in 1886, and 7,663 less than the number in 1885.

It is possible that the competition between two rival lines of steamers during 1885 and 1886 and the very cheap rates consequent thereon induced many to emigrate during these years.

The Acting Protector of Immigrants reports that notwithstanding the increase in the number of indentured immigrants, the supply of coolies still falls short of the demand.

There were nine estates in Province Wellesley employing Indian immigrants in 1887. The numbers employed on the 31st December, 1887, were 4,677.

Trade.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

32. The following table gives the values of the imports and exports at the three Settlements, in 1886 and 1887, respectively:—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.
	$	$	$	$
Singapore - -	77,277,536	92,119,736	60,578,615	75,066,330
Penang - -	41,194,292	46,369,873	40,212,507	42,289,573
Malacca - -	3,072,390	3,833,311	3,331,152	3,985,308
Total - -	121,544,218	142,322,920	104,122,274	121,341,211

It must be remembered that these trade returns are approximate only, as there is no custom house in the Colony.

33. The very large increase in the value of the imports and exports, amounting in the aggregate to $37,997,639, cannot be attributed altogether to augmented trade, but is partly due to the improved system of obtaining returns of imports and exports introduced in June, 1886, under the provisions of Ordinance I. of that year.

34. The entire value of the imports into Singapore shews an increase of over 14 millions of dollars. The imports from the United Kingdom alone exhibit an increase of nearly 3½ millions and the imports from British Colonies shew a similar increase, principally from Hongkong and British India. The value of the imports from the other Settlements increased by over half a million of dollars. The imports from foreign countries give the large increase in value of almost 7½ millions of dollars: the countries that contribute most being, in their order, Japan, Netherlands India, Johor, the Protected Native States, and Java.

35. The exports from Singapore shew the large increase in value of 14½ millions of dollars. In the exports to the United Kingdom there is an increase of over 5 millions. In those to British Colonies there is a decrease of about $1,728,000, chiefly in the exports to Hongkong and British Burma. To foreign countries the exports exhibit an increase in value of over 6¾ millions of dollars, chiefly to Siam, Netherlands India, the United States, and Germany. The exports to the other Settlements give an increase of almost $800,000.

36. The export of tin shews a large increase. The market has been extraordinarily buoyant and the value of the tin exports is greater than in 1886 by a sum of $8,250,000.

37. The trade with the Protected Native States continues to increase steadily, shewing under all the heads together in 1887 an increase of over $1,000,000 as compared with 1886.

Shipping.

38. The number of vessels, exclusive of Native craft, entered at the three ports of the Colony during the year under review was 7,075, with an aggregate tonnage of 4,312,899 tons. The figures shew an increase over 1886 of 527 vessels and 103,865 tons.

39. In Singapore the arrivals numbered 3,467 vessels, with a tonnage of 2,642,195 tons, being an increase over the previous year of 328 vessels. In Penang 2,507 vessels entered, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,452,473 tons. The excess over 1886 was 58 vessels. In Malacca 1,101 vessels, with a tonnage of 218,231 tons, arrived at the port. The excess over the arrivals in 1886 was 141 vessels.

40. The number of vessels, exclusive of Native craft, cleared from the three ports of the Colony during 1887 was 6,916, with an aggregate tonnage of 4,042,105 tons. The increase over 1886 was 429 vessels and 71,906 tons.

41. From Singapore 3,393 vessels cleared, with a tonnage of 2,564,592 tons. The increase over 1886 was 321 vessels. The departures from Penang numbered 2,424 vessels, with a tonnage of 1,259,520 tons, being a decrease of 30 vessels as compared with 1886. From Malacca 1,099 vessels, with a tonnage of 217,993 tons, cleared, being 138 vessels more than in 1886.

42. The number of Native craft entered at the three ports of the Colony during 1887 was 11,453, of a tonnage of 291,167 tons, as against 9,744 vessels, with a tonnage of 265,914, in 1886. The number that cleared out from the Colony was 11,664, of a tonnage of 302,427 tons, as against 10,511 vessels, with a tonnage of 287,599 tons, in the previous year.

Lighthouses.

43. All the lights have been in good working order during the year. The Horsburgh Light has been converted into a first order flashing light.

Public Health.

44. The health of the Settlements in 1887 was good, with the exception of Penang, where a severe outbreak of small-pox occurred.

45. The total number of patients treated in the several hospitals of the Colony was 18,878, of whom 986 were Europeans and 17,892 Natives.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

46. The following table shews the total number of patients treated, and the deaths that occurred in each of the Settlements :—

Settlement.	Total treated.	Deaths.
Singapore and Dindings - -	10,102	814
Penang - - - -	4,940	341
Province Wellesley - -	2,137	227
Malacca - - - -	1,699	167

The total number of deaths was 1,549, of which 41 occurred among Europeans and 1,508 among Natives. The percentage of deaths to total treated was for Europeans 4·16 and for Natives 8·43, or a total percentage of 8·2, which is about the same as 1886.

The following tables give the work done and the results obtained in the hospitals of the Colony :—

Hospitals.	1886.				1887.			
	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or Absconded.	Remained.	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or Absconded.	Remained.
SINGAPORE.								
General Hospital, European - -	483	25	433	25	549	38	477	34
General Hospital, Native - -	2,010	62	1,899	49	2,093	62	1,994	37
Prison Hospital - - -	363	19	332	12	378	20	332	26
Pauper do. - - - -	5,033	733	3,814	486	4,951	669	3,865	417
Lock do. - - - -	1,645	1	1,489	155	1,910	3	1,766	141
Leper do. - - - -	82	23	15	44	128	16	83	29
Lunatic Asylum - - -	337	59	85	193	382	77	98	207
Dindings Hospital - - -	—	—	—	—	93	6	85	2
PENANG.								
General Hospital, European - -	159	6	149	4	109	2	104	3
General Hospital, Native - -	895	30	—	—	1,122	41	1,063	18
Prison Hospital - - -	89	12	79	1	88	1	87	—
Pauper do. - - - -	2,172	315	1,565	292	1,944	219	1,423	302
Lock do. - - - -	1,061	1	998	62	1,092	1	1,037	54
Balik Pulau do. - - -	414	33	—	—	411	28	334	49
Small-pox do. - - -	—	—	—	—	174	49	122	3

Hospitals.	1886.				1887.			
	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or Absconded.	Remained.	Cases.	Died.	Discharged or Absconded.	Remained.
PROVINCE WELLESLEY.								
Butterworth Hospital - -	766	46	689	31	984	77	821	86
Sungei Bakap do. - -	467	23	407	37	383	32	303	48
Bukit Minyak do. - -	557	13	494	50	517	44	405	68
Leper Asylum, Pulau Jerĕjak -	197	75	—	122	253	74	4	175
MALACCA.								
General Hospital - - -	235	6	222	7	303	6	293	4
Prison do. - - - -	22	—	19	3	34	—	34	—
Pauper do. - - -	924	109	686	129	1,337	161	1,050	126
Lock do. - - -	78	—	71	—	25	—	25	—

47. The work done at the Government out-door dispensary in Singapore considerably exceeded that of any previous year, and the institution certainly made fair progress. During the year 4,594 patients attended at the dispensary, as compared with 1,826 in 1885 and 2,807 in 1886. The dispensary at Penang, which was opened in October, 1883, did not make the progress during the year which might have been expected. The number of patients who attended was 1,911, but no doubt this number will increase annually as the advantages of the institution become better known.

48. Vaccination has made steady progress during the year, the number of persons vaccinated showing an increase of about two thousand cases over the number for 1886, the increase being most marked in Singapore and Malacca.

49. The quarantine stations have been kept in good order. Eight vessels in Singapore and one in Penang were put in quarantine.

Meteorology.

50. The meteorological returns are under the charge of the head of the Medical Department. The following statement shows the maximum, minimum, and mean temperature of the air at each of the Settlements during the year:—

	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.
Singapore - - - -	91·8	68·6	80·7
Penang - - - - -	93·8	67·	81·1
Province Wellesley - - -	98·	65·5	81·7
Malacca - - - -	91·	70·	81·4

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

51. Complete returns of rainfall for the whole year were received from thirty-nine stations in the Colony. The past year has been unusually wet in all the Settlements except Malacca.

The following table shows the total rainfall at each of the Settlements, the maximum and minimum rainfall registered in one month, and the maximum in 24 hours:—

—	Total Rainfall.	Maximum Fall in one month.	Minimum Fall in one month.	Maximum Fall in 24 hours.
	Inches.	Ins.	Ins.	Inches.
Singapore - -	112·97 (Mean of 11 Returns.)	Aug. - 18·62	Sept. - 4·59	7·55
Penang - -	144·94 (Mean of 4 Returns.)	Oct. - 28·72	Feb. - 5·11	9·45
Province Wellesley.	131· (Mean of 5 Returns.)	Aug. - 29·19	Sept. - 1·53	6·80
Malacca - -	82·18 (Mean of 19 Returns.)	July - 20·88	June - ·68	7·30

Police and Crime.

52. The police force at the end of 1887 consisted of the following officers and men:—

1 Inspector-General.
3 Superintendents.
3 Assistant Superintendents.
2 Chief Inspectors.
19 Inspectors.
64 European Contingent of all ranks.
219 Sikh "
1,609 Malay and Kling "

53. The Inspector-General of police reports on the European and Sikh Contingents in terms of the highest praise. He considers them to have well fulfilled the purposes for which they were raised. Of the Malay and Kling Contingent, however, he reports unfavourably. The same difficulty exists, as has been noticed in former reports, in obtaining recruits, and those who offer themselves belong to the lowest class.

54. Two hundred and four men were dismissed from the police force during the year for police offences, and 74 cases were sent for trial before the magistrates of police.

55. The number of cases reported to the police during the year was 10,358, or 1,251 more than in 1886. The proportion discovered was about 75 per cent.

56. The number of cases in which arrests were made by the police during the year was 26,977, or 5,008 more than in the previous year.

57. The number of serious crimes committed in Penang and Province Wellesley is again very noticeable, 17 cases of murder, attempt to murder, or manslaughter, and six of gang robbery having been reported to the police. In Singapore reports were received of eight cases of murder, attempt to murder, and *amok* ("running amuck").

58. One of these cases of *amok* was the worst case which has occurred for many years. It happened in November, 1887, in a crowded part of the town of Singapore. A Javanese, seized with a sudden frenzy, suddenly ran amuck and killed three persons and seriously wounded four more. At the trial he was found to be of unsound mind. In Malacca there were several serious cases of crime, including six murder cases.

59. The state of the Chinese secret societies is such as to seriously engage the attention of Government. With one exception, no dangerous opposition to Government was shown in 1887. The secret societies now number in Singapore 62,376 members and in Penang 92,581 members.

Judicial.

60. The following tables contain returns for 1886 and 1887 of the cases dealt with by the Supreme Court on the civil and criminal sides, by the courts of requests, and by the police and marine magistrates :—

Supreme Court, Criminal Side.		1886. No. of Prisoners.				1887. No. of Prisoners.			
		Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total.
Culpable homicide - -	convicted	—	5	—	5	2	—	1	3
	acquitted	3	8	—	11	1	3	1	5
Culpable homicide not amounting to murder -	convicted	2	5	2	9	3	16	—	19
	acquitted	5	2	—	7	5	11	—	16
Grievous hurt by means of an instrument for cutting -	convicted	5	12	3	20	7	8	—	15
	acquitted	—	5	1	6	1	12	—	13
Unnatural offences - -	convicted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	acquitted	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Other offences against person	convicted	11	28	1	40	16	19	2	37
	acquitted	5	8	2	15	2	11	5	18
Other offences against property - - - -	convicted	23	8	1	32	30	19	2	51
	acquitted	9	4	3	16	9	8	—	17
Miscellaneous offences -	convicted	11	18	1	30	7	24	—	31
	acquitted	4	26	4	34	6	8	7	21
Attempt to murder - -	convicted	—	2	—	2	—	5	1	6
	acquitted	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	3
Robbery with violence -	convicted	4	16	6	26	13	39	1	53
	acquitted	3	13	4	20	7	24	—	31
Theft, housebreaking - -	convicted	45	47	10	102	67	48	5	120
	acquitted	10	23	4	37	9	21	2	32
Total - -	convicted	101	141	24	266	145	178	12	335
	acquitted	39	90	18	147	43	100	15	158
Grand Total - -		140	231	42	413	188	278	27	493

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Supreme Court, Civil Side.	Civil Actions, 1886.						Civil Actions, 1887.					
	Pending.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending.	Pending.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, Dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated.	Pending.
			$						$			
Singapore	698	1,771	733,978	523	1,180	766	766	1,722	1,023,107	807	769	586
Penang -	1,002	704	411,328	281	791	634	634	737	528,062	689	381	301
Malacca -	26	138	59,988	43	78	43	43	141	67,823	43	84	57
	1,726	2,613	1,205,294	847	2,049	1,443	1,443	2,600	1,618,992	1,539	1,234	944

	Probate and Administration.				Debtor Summonses and Bankruptcy Cases.			
	1886.		1887.		1886.		1887.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Debtor Summonses.	Bankruptcy Petitions.	Debtor Summonses.	Bankruptcy Petitions.
Singapore - - -	145	1,162,824	151	619,878	39	40	33	40
Penang - - - -	659	621,756	832	566,657	2	5	2	6
Malacca - - - -	132	79,180	155	96,032	1	1	—	2
	936	1,863,760	1,138	1,282,567	42	46	35	48

Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.	1886.					1887.				
	Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.	Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.
Singapore—										
Police - -	186	16,975	5,204	104	22,469	214	20,849	6,905	62	28,030
Marine - -	—	374	109	—	483	—	349	179	—	528
Penang—										
Police - -	208	8,428	4,701	124	13,461	214	10,641	5,550	132	16,537
Marine - -	—	28	11	—	39	—	68	8	—	76
Province Wellesley—										
Police - -	59	3,126	1,601	71	4,857	76	4,042	1,834	42	5,994
Malacca—										
Police - -	47	1,182	902	20	2,151	28	875	869	23	1,795
	500	30,113	12,528	319	43,460	532	36,824	15,345	259	52,960

Courts of Requests. (Jurisdiction up to $50.)	1886.		1887.	
	Number of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages.	Number of Cases.	Amount of Debt or Damages.
Singapore - -	4,499	51,794	4,460	51,261
Penang - - -	3,161	40,709	3,050	39,332
Province Wellesley -	987	11,394	663	8,936
Malacca - - -	1,020	11,461	1,002	16,141
Total -	9,667	115,358	9,175	115,670

Inquests.

61. The number of inquests held during the year 1887 was as follows:—

Singapore - - - - -	142
Penang - - - - -	132
Province Wellesley - - -	109
Malacca - - - - -	53
	436

Hackney Carriages.

62. The following table gives the number of tramcars and hackney carriages of different classes registered and licensed in each of the Settlements of the Colony, and of persons licensed as drivers and jinricksha coolies. In Singapore there is a very large increase in the number of jinrickshas, and a decrease in the number of carriages drawn by ponies.

Settlements.	Tram-cars.	Hackney Carriages.			Jinrick-shas.	Total.
		1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.		
Singapore - -	14	17	698	56	2,500	3,285
Penang - - -	10	—	649	431	1,345	2,435
Malacca - -	—	—	29	132	120	281
Total -	24	17	1,376	619	3,965	6,001

	Tramcar Conductors.	Drivers.	Jinricksha Coolies.
Singapore - - -	53	1,060	4,828
Penang - - -	2	1,562	1,476
Malacca - - -	—	187	305
Total - -	55	2,809	6,609

63. From the commencement of 1888 the whole of the registration is transferred to the new municipality at each Settlement.

Prisons.

64. The daily average of criminal prisoners in the three Settlements was 1,350·27.

65. In the Singapore Criminal Prison, on the 1st January, 1887, there were 1,015 prisoners in gaol: 4,421 were admitted during the year, and 4,377 were discharged. The total number on the 31st December last was 1,041, of whom 20 were Europeans.

66. The daily average of prisoners in this prison was 1,003, as against 985 in the previous year. This amounts to a reduction in the proportion of prisoners when the large increase in the immigrant population of the Colony is taken into consideration. All prisoners with sentences of over six months at Penang and Malacca are sent to Singapore.

67. During the year 18 prisoners died (one by suicide), as compared with 26 in the previous year. The health of the prisoners has been excellent.

68. There was a decrease, as compared with 1886, in the number of offences against prison discipline in proportion to the daily average of prisoners. The more serious offences punished by caning numbered 29. There was only one case of assault on prison officers, and that not of a serious nature. There was one escape of a long-sentenced prisoner.

69. In the Penang Prison 3,085 prisoners were committed during the year, of whom 30 were Europeans. The daily average was 326·11, as against 323·56 in 1886.

The state of health was very good during the year. Only two prisoners died (one by suicide).

The offences against prison rules punished by caning numbered three. The general conduct of the prisoners was good. There were no escapes.

70. One hundred and seventy-two (172) prisoners were committed to the Malacca Prison during the year, of whom two

were Europeans. The daily average was 21·26. There was no case of assault and no escape.

Nothing could be better than the sanitary state of this prison; no deaths occurred during the year.

The Dindings.

71. The district of the Dindings, which, for purposes of administration, was made part of the Settlement of Singapore in 1886 by Ordinance No. XI. of that year, continues to make progress. There was an increase in the revenue of 1887 over 1886 of $1,951, exclusive of a sum of $3,441 paid in 1886 by the Government of Perak as a reimbursement. There is every prospect of the Dindings advancing in prosperity.

72. Under land revenue alone $8,617 was collected, and when proper surveys are made, and titles issued for holdings, a large increase to the revenue should follow.

73. The Assistant Superintendent of Forests at Penang has lately reported most favourably on the agricultural capabilities of the district, and the result of recent prospecting shows that there are deposits of tin situated at no great distance from deep water in the Dindings Channel, and warrants the expectation that this will be an important source of revenue in the future.

(Signed) A. M. SKINNER,
Acting Colonial Secretary, S.S.

Singapore, 28th March 1888.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 24.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (PENANG AND MALACCA).

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS FOR 1887.

(*In continuation of* [C.—5249.–8.] *June* 1888.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, 1888.

LONDON:
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1888.

C.—5249.–21.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	1888	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements - -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports, 1886 and 1887).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	½
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½
16	Trinidad - - -	„	1½
17	Bermuda - - -	„	1
18	St. Helena - - -	„	½
19	Barbados - - -	„	1
20	Lagos (Sanitary Report) -	„	1
21	Bahamas - - -	„	½
22	Labuan - - -	„	½
23	Malta - - -	„	1½

No. 24.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (PENANG AND MALACCA.)

[For previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5239] ; 1885 [C.—4904] ; 1884 [C.—4583] ; 1883 [C.—4404] ; 1882 [C.—4015] ; 1881 [C.—3642].]

SIR C. C. SMITH to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Singapore,
June 16, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of the Penang and Malacca Administration Reports for the year 1887.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL C. SMITH.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c.
Colonial Office.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT, PENANG, 1887.

COLONIAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue, Expenditure, Surplus.

1. The Colonial revenue received in Penang during 1887 amounted to $1,275,676.20. The expenditure for the year, including $81,641.03 for Penang charges defrayed by the Crown Agents in London, amounted to $1,092,808.92. There was an apparent surplus, therefore, of $182,867.28.

2. A comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for 1886 and 1887 is given in the Appendix A.* This statement does not include payments by the Crown Agents.

Land Revenue.

3. There has been a noteworthy increase in Land Revenue, the receipts in 1887 having been nearly double those of 1885.

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* Not printed.

o 55344. Wt. 11980.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

The following table shows the receipts for three consecutive years contrasted:—

——	1885.	1886.	1887.
	$	$	$
Premium on leases and grants -	970	4,479	10,303
Rents - - - -	22,244	26,670	38,262
Miscellaneous - - -	12,405	15,067	19,955
Total - -	35,619	46,216	68,520

This subject is more fully remarked upon in a subsequent portion of this Report (*see infra*, para. 59).

Comparative Receipts and Outlay, 1886 *and* 1887.

4. In comparing the revenue and expenditure of the year which has just passed and that which preceded it, it will be convenient to continue to classify the receipts and outlay connected with the Beach Street Reclamation as "Extraordinary," the practice adopted in previous Reports. The following statement shows, comprehensively, the total revenue and total expenditure for 1887, as compared with those of 1886:—

——	1886.	1887.	——	1886.	1887.
	$	$		$	$
Ordinary revenue	1,034,921	1,256,931	Ordinary expenditure.	899,686	974,576
Beach Street reimbursement.	181,767	18,745	Beach Street works.	77,843	*39,100
Total -	1,216,688	1,275,676	Total -	977,529	1,013,676

* This includes payments by Crown Agents.

Farms or Licenses.

5. The following statement (which has appeared in my predecessor's Reports for 1885 and 1886) shows the rents obtained from the principal "farms" (classed as "licenses" in the accounts) at the last three triennial lettings:—

——	1880–82.	1883–85.	1886–88.
	$	$	$
Opium - - -	440,640	480,000	582,000
Spirits - - -	178,500	216,000	240,000
Pawnbrokers - -	38,112	42,000	54,000
Total - -	657,252	738,000	876,000

Stamps

6. The following statement gives particulars of the stamp revenue for the past two years:—

—	1886.	1887.
	$	$
Fees of office:—		
Adhesive	12,759	19,626
Impressed	2,825	4,002
Revenue:—		
Adhesive	13,888	17,474
Impressed	46,726	51,062
Judicial:—		
Adhesive	24,292	31,407
Probate:—		
Adhesive	15,998	1,174
Impressed	8,211	10,863
Total	124,699	135,608

Public Works.

7. The only items of expenditure that call for particular remark are "works and buildings" and "roads, streets, and bridges," exclusive of the "reclamation."

Works and Buildings.

8. The expenditure for "works and buildings" n 1887 amounted to $232,959, as compared with $156,385 in 1886. The following statement gives particulars of the principal works:—

—	Total estimated cost.	Paid prior to 1887.	Paid in 1887.
	$	$	$
New landing jetty	33,000	1,061	23,807
New Government offices	250,000	27,468	48,689
Goods landing accommodation	—	—	288
Resident Councillor's House	50,000	—	10,000
Houses for District Magistrates, Balik Pulau and Bukit Mertajam	10,000	—	10,000
Two additional wards at Pauper Hospital and extending and enclosing Hospital Compound	11,000	—	11,000
Nîbong Tĕbal water supply	26,632	25,958	671
Renewing Butterworth Police Barracks	13,350	13,067	446

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

Roads, Streets, and Bridges.

9. The expenditure for "roads, streets, and bridges" in 1887 amounted to $108,536, as compared with $100,164 in 1886. The following are the principal works :—

	Total estimated Cost.		Paid prior to 1887.		Paid in 1887.	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
Metalling road from Sungei Bakap to Nîbong Tĕbal (Final Vote) -	17,050	00	10,549	90	6,499	97
Metalling 2nd class road from Bukit Mertajam to Permatang Pau (on an estimate of $35,000) (1st Vote) -	35,000	00	—		9,999	49
Constructing 2nd class road in Trans-Krîan (Final Vote) - - -	22,000	00	14,997	97	6,999	76
Constructing 2nd class road from Nior Sebatang to Kubang Semang *viâ* Padang Manorah (2nd Vote) - -	18,000	00	4,999	95	4,999	79
Widening of Jalan Bharu (on an estimate of $15,000) (1st Vote) -	15,000	00	—		5,999	
Completion of Gĕnting Road - -	81,500	00	72,498	94	8,998	92

THE MUNICIPALITY.

Change in Constitution of Municipality.

10. The year 1887 was the last year of the existence of the Penang Municipality which had been established in 1856 by the Government of India. The Municipal Institutions of the Colony have now been re-modelled and are regulated by Ordinance IX. of 1887 (in force from January 1st, 1888). The old Conservancy Act (Indian Act XIV. of 1856), though, in fact, only intended to apply to towns (Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, and the towns in the Straits Settlements), was made applicable to the whole Settlement of Penang and Province Wellesley, and for many years the country ratepayers paid rates and taxes which were expended exclusively in George Town and the suburbs. This anomaly, long condemned, has at last disappeared. The scope of the new Municipality of George Town will be confined to limits which extend along the coast for about ten miles (from Bagan Jermal to Batu Lanchang) and include altogether about nine square miles. The country rates and taxes will henceforward be collected by the Government, who have long had to keep up the roads in Province Wellesley from the Colonial revenue, besides assisting, from the same source, the municipal authorities in carrying out many important works.

Accounts.

11. The following is an abstract of the accounts of the Municipality for 1887.

	$	c.		$	c.
Ordinary revenue -	239,500	71	Ordinary expenditure -	181,208	36
			Town drainage - -	22,373	46
			New Pitt Street Bath-house, &c. - - -	5,638	82
Advances recovered -	18,200	00	Improvements to jetty -	1,248	35
			Government loan repaid -	20,000	00
			Advances - - -	18,200	00
Balance, 1st January 1887 -	16,443	06	Balance, 31st December 1887 - - -	25,474	78
Total -	274,143	77	Total -	274,143	77

Loans.

12. All private loans have been paid off, and the balance due to Government has been reduced to $173,500. This bears interest at 5 per cent., and a sinking fund of 1 per cent. has been provided for.

POPULATION. PUBLIC HEALTH.

Births and Deaths.

13. The births and deaths in 1887, as compared with the returns for 1886, are shown in the subjoined table:—

	Births.		Deaths.	
	1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.
Chinese - - - -	682	725	2,934	2,609
Malays - - - -	3,084	3,004	2,507	2,570
Tamils - - - -	465	498	930	1,176
Other nationalities - -	127	130	121	151
Total - -	4,358	4,357	6,492	6,506

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

Deaths and Death-rate.

14. The following table shows the number of deaths and the death-rate in 1886 and 1887. The rates have been calculated on the figures of the census of 1881 :—

	Population. Census of 1881.	Deaths.		Death-rates.	
		1886.	1887.	1886.	1887.
Penang, George Town - - -	44,267	2,381	1,769	53·7	39·9
Penang Country - - - -	46,684	1,414	2,031	30·2	43·5
Province Wellesley - - - -	97,294	2,697	2,706	27·8	27·8
Total - - - - -	188,245	6,492	6,506	34·4	34·5

15. The registrar of births and deaths (Dr. Hampshire) is not satisfied that all births and deaths are duly reported, and thinks that the population exceeds considerably the figures shown in the census return. He is of opinion that the actual death-rate is lower than that exhibited in the above table.

Small-pox.

16. I regret to have to record a somewhat serious outbreak of small-pox. This disease was prevalent throughout the year both in the town and country, and in some places in the latter part of the year assumed an epidemic form. The greatest apathy and ignorance characterised householders of all classes during this visitation, and the Health Officer (Dr. Hampshire) attempted in vain to obtain any willing concurrence in measures deemed necessary to prevent the spread of disease. While admission was refused to Government Medical Officers instructed to visit houses where small-pox patients were reported to be lying, efficient isolation was rarely practised voluntarily, and the children of households not yet attacked seemed to be permitted to associate freely with others coming from infected houses.

17. The limited powers given to the sanitary authorities by the rules under "the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance" (1887) were enforced, as far as possible, and a temporary small-pox hospital was established, two new wards at the Pauper Hospital being utilised for that purpose. The following statistics show the number of cases of small-pox reported to Government, and the number of deaths ascribed to the disease in the returns furnished to the registrar of births and deaths. It may safely be assumed

that many cases were not reported, and the death-rate is, therefore, no doubt lower than would appear from these figures :—

Month.	Number of Cases reported.	Number of Deaths.
August - - - -	133	58
September - - - -	234	88
October - - - -	398	86
November - - - -	362	95
December - - - -	388	83
Total - - -	1,515	410

Hospitals.

18. The reports of the Government hospitals for the years 1886 and 1887 give the following results :—

	1886.			1887.		
	Cases treated.	Deaths.	Rate per Mille.	Cases treated.	Deaths.	Rate per Mille.
General Hospital :— Europeans - - -	159	6	37	109	2	18
Natives - - -	895	30	33	1,122	41	36
Prison Hospital - - -	89	12	134	88	1	11
Lock Hospital - - -	1,061	1	1	1,092	1	1
Pauper Hospital - - -	2,172	315	145	1,944	219	112
District Hospitals :— Balik Pulau - -	414	33	79	411	28	68
Province Wellesley -	1,790	82	45	1,884	153	81
Leper Hospital, Pulau Jerĕjak -	197	75	380	253	74	293

19. Beri-beri, the disease which has proved so fatal among the Netherlands Indian troops in Achin, and which has been prevalent from time to time among Chinese coolies at tin-mining centres in the Malay Peninsula, has by no means disappeared from this Settlement, though it is satisfactory to be able to note that the deaths in hospital from this disease were fewer in 1887 than in previous years. In a Pauper Hospital like ours, which is the refuge of paupers of all nationalities, many of whom have contracted disease in places beyond the Colony, beri-beri must naturally be looked for.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

20. The statistics of the beri-beri cases in the Pauper Hospital for the last four years are as follows:—

	Cases treated.	Deaths.	Per-centage.
1884 - - -	262	54	20
1885 - - -	490	172	35
1886 - - -	568	100	17
1887 - - -	402	54	13

21. At the Balik Pulau Hospital, the number of cases treated for this disease has diminished, though the death-rate has remained stationary.

The figures are as follows:—

	Cases treated.	Deaths.	Per-centage.
1885 - - -	106	22	20
1886 - - -	70	5	7
1887 - - -	52	4	7

22. In Province Wellesley, too, a marked decrease is reported in beri-beri cases, the total number reported being 95 with 9 deaths, or a death-rate of nearly 9 per cent. In Province Wellesley, the treatment advocated by Dr. Kynsey, of Ceylon, has been tried with good results.

23. The prison was entirely free from beri-beri during the year. The last outbreak there was in 1880.

24. The hospitals of the Settlement are practically State charities, and are so classified in the section of the Blue Book appropriated to "Charitable and Literary Institutions."

25. All these institutions are in excellent order, and though Dr. Kerr pleads for further works and an increase of staff at the Pauper Hospital, there are good grounds for thinking that the establishment of a separate Pauper Hospital for Province Wellesley (at Bukit Mertajam) would be preferable. We suffer from the vicinity of uncivilised neighbours. The Native Government of Kedah, for instance, maintains no hospital in the populous mining district of Kulim, which is near the frontier of Province Wellesley, and consequently Colonial hospitals are resorted to by a class of patients whom the Colonial Surgeon, Province Wellesley (Dr. McClosky), describes as "broken-down, emaciated subjects, chiefly Chinese, abandoned by their employers, picked up by the police, and sent to hospital, many in a moribund condition." One

hundred and fifteen patients of this kind were received in 1887 into a special pauper ward at Butterworth Hospital, where 39 died (25 per cent.).

26. The charge of the hospitals has been distributed among the medical staff in 1887 as follows :—

Dr. Hampshire with Three Apothecaries and Two Dressers.

Lock Hospital; Prison Hospital; Small-pox Hospital, Civil Dispensary. Total patients treated, 1,254.

Dr. Kerr with Three Apothecaries and Eight Dressers.

General Hospital; Pauper Hospital; and Balik Pulau Hospital. Total patients treated, 3,586.

Dr. McClosky with Four Apothecaries and Six Dressers.

Butterworth, Bukit Minyak and Sungei Bakap Hospitals, Province Wellesley; Leper Asylum, Pulau Jerejak. Total patients treated, 2,137.

Government Dispensary

27. A Government dispensary, at which the public can obtain advice and medicines, is maintained in George Town, and there is also a similar institution in connexion with the Government Hospital at Butterworth. The following return is disappointing, as it does not indicate an increase in the good effected by this system of out-door relief:—

	1886.	1887.
Total number of patients who attended -	2,066	1,911
„ visits paid - - -	3,437	3,053
„ patients treated "free" -	672	286
„ pauper patients - -	1,111	964
„ paying patients - -	283	661
„ males - - -	1,504	1,378
„ females - - -	562	533
Average number of visits per diem - -	10·98	10·16
„ visits per patient -	1·66	1·59
Number of days dispensary open - -	313	300
Amount collected - - - -	$ c. 145 10	$ c. 138 20
Average receipt per visit - - -	0 04	0 04

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

28. Dr. Hampshire attributes the want of progress to the facts that the apothecary was temporarily withdrawn for special service during an outbreak of small-pox, and that the dispensary is disadvantageously situated.

29. At Butterworth, 396 out-patients were treated, as against 382 in 1886.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

30. The *raison d'être* of the Indian Immigration Department is the necessity for regulating the conditions under which labourers are procured from India to work on low wages, for a term of three years, on certain estates in the Colony and Native States, in consideration of small advances made to them in India before embarking.

31. The average number of statute immigrants employed on estates in the Settlement of Penang is under 4,500; the rate of wages earned by free Indian labourers in Penang and Province Wellesley is 20 cents a day; that paid under Ordinance V. of 1884 to indenture coolies (statute immigrants) is 12 cents a day for the first year and 14 cents a day for the second. Taking the average rate of pay at 13 cents a day, while the market rate is 20 cents, the employers of indentured coolies save 7 cents a day on the wages of 4,500 men, and if the number of working days in the year is put down at 200 days (a high average when women, idlers, and men in hospital are taken into consideration) the total annual benefit conferred on employers in Penang and Province Wellesley by the working of Ordinance V. of 1884 is $63,000.

32. Putting the number of statute immigrants in the Native States at 1,000, and calculating the market rate in the Native States at 25 cents, and the contract rate at 15 cents, the Native States may be said to benefit to the extent of $20,000; total, $83,000.

33. To attain this result an Immigration Department is kept up, which in 1887 cost the Colony $8,741, against a revenue of $4,907.55; and a subsidy of $30,000* yearly is paid to the steamship company who run a line of steamers between Negapatam and the Straits, in order to facilitate immigration. Besides this, each Native State maintains an Immigration Department.

34. What I may call the "wear and tear" involved by the system will be in some measure expressed by the following statistics:—

In 1887 the magistrates in Province Wellesley tried 1,974 Tamil coolies for offences under "the Immigration Ordinance." (The total number of persons tried in Province Wellesley for all offences in the year was 4,817.)

---

* Contributed as follows:—

	$
Colony - - -	10,000
Protected Native States -	20,000
	30,000

35. Out of 3,085 persons committed to the Criminal Prison in 1887, 967 were Tamil coolies undergoing short sentences for offences in connexion with labour contracts. The average length of sentence of these men was 18 days. The average distance of the estate from the prison is about 10 miles, and each indentured cooly has to be returned to his estate (at the expense of his employer) on the expiration of his sentence under police escort.

36. In the first five months of 1887, 793 men of the Province Wellesley Police walked 7,194 miles on escort duty with Tamil coolies.

37. The physique of the men shipped at Negapatam for field labour in the Straits leaves much to be desired. For this, recruiters in India are, no doubt, principally to blame, but it may be doubted whether really able-bodied labourers, who can earn 4 annas a day in India, will emigrate to the Straits for 12 or 14 cents a day, unless they go to join relations or friends who have already emigrated. Whether due to the rapacity of recruiters, or to insufficient examination by the native doctors on board the emigrant steamers, the fact remains that, both in 1886 and 1887, Indian immigrants were received whom Dr. McClosky describes as "poor in physique and unused to field work." Such importations are only a source of loss to the employer, and tend to augment the death-rate materially. Of some who came under his notice in 1886-7 Dr. Closky writes, "They succumbed from nostalgia, being unused to field work; they lost heart, longed for home, were inmates of the hospital for the greater part of their time, breaking down fast in constitution and gradually sank from sheer general debility and exhaustion, in spite of all treatment."

38. The most effectual means of attracting a superior class of labourers would appear to be to raise the minimum rate of wages fixed by Ordinance V. of 1884, section 46, and to reduce the period of the contract (three years), which, considering that the maximum advance recoverable by law is only $12, or barely £2, seems to be a long term of enforced servitude.

39. Improvement in health, reduction in offences, fewer prisoners, and less "wear and tear" may then be looked for.

40. I now proceed to give the usual statistics for the year under view.

Statute Immigrants.

41. The numbers of Indian immigrants who entered into "first contracts" in 1887 were as follows:—

	For service in							Total.
	Penang.	Province Wellesley.	Singapore.	Pêrak.	Sĕlángor.	Sungei Ujong.	Johor.	
Men - -	53	2,112	24	776	593	273	396	—
Women -	—	554						
Total -	53	2,666	24	776	593	273	396	4,781

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

42. The numbers of statute immigrants who entered into "first contracts" for service in the Settlement in 1886 and 1887 were respectively :—

	1886.	1887.
Men - - - -	1,566	2,165
Women - - -	349	554
Children - - - -	216	156
Total - -	2,131	2,875

43. The following figures give the statistics of the statute immigrants employed in the Settlement (exclusive of children) for the year 1887 :—

Remained from previous year -	3,840	
Immigrants, first contracts - -	2,666	
Immigrants, renewed contracts -	89	
		6,595
Discharged, &c. - - -	1,214	
Absconded - - -	488	
Died - - - -	218	
		1,920
Remained at close of the year -		4,675

Of those so remaining on the books of the estates on the 31st December 1887 there were :—

At work - - - - -	4,201
In estate hospitals - - -	286
In Government hospitals - - -	127
In gaol - - - - -	61
	4,675

44. The following statement gives particulars of the deaths, desertions, and convictions in respect of the several estates:—

	Average No.	Number of			Rate per Mille.		
		Deaths.	Desertions.	Convictions.	Deaths.	Desertions.	Convictions.
Sungei Penang*	29	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tanjong Bunga*	23	—	—	1	—	—	—
Alma	221	22	72	59	99·95	325·79	266·96
Byram	620	39	87	18	62·90	140·32	29·03
Batu Kawan	864	24	97	528	27·77	112·26	611·11
Caledonia	827	77	234	164	93·10	282·94	198·18
Golden Grove	352	21	99	31	59·65	281·25	88·06
Malakoff	379	4	64	119	1·53	163·32	313·98
Prye	730	24	226	770	32·87	309·58	1,054·79
Trâns-Krîan	240	7	80	20	29·16	333·33	83·33
Bukit Tualang*	50	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Coolies were first employed on these estates in 1887, so that the figures for these estate represent the actual number employed, not the average.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

45. During the year 1887, 65,348 Chinese adult deck passengers (of whom 2,784 were women) arrived at Penang from China, as against a total of 57,186 in 1886. Of children under twelve years of age, there were 1,643 in 1887, as compared with 938 in 1886.

46. The primary destinations of the adult arrivals were as follows:—

	Male.	Female.
Landed in Penang	58,353	2,234
Proceeded direct to British India	1,087	47
„ „ Protected Native States	2,208	432
„ „ Siamese territory	723	27
„ „ Netherlands India	193	44

47. The number of contracts to labour entered into before the Officers of the Chinese Protectorate continues to increase; the number was 19,749 in 1885; 24,746 in 1886; and 26,359 in 1887.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

48. The distribution of labourers according to these contracts was as follows:—

	1885.	1886.	1887.
Within the Settlement - -	5,404	6,221	5,464
In the Native States - -	2,241	5,407	7,672
In Netherlands India - -	11,727	12,719	12,854
In other places - - -	377	399	369
Total - -	19,749	24,746	26,359

Periodical Inspection of Estates.

49. During the year, after a tour of inspection by the Protector of Chinese, Strait Settlements (Mr. Pickering, C.M.G.), in Province Wellesley, action was taken in the direction of providing a system of periodical inspection of Chinese indentured coolies on estates; the subject still awaits definite organisation.

50. The expenses of the Chinese Protectorate in Penang are now covered by the fees collected (in stamps) on contracts, which amounted in 1887 to $16,382.25.

CHINESE SOCIETIES.

(Societies Registered under Ordinances XIX. of 1869 and V. of 1872.)

51. I reproduce, with the addition of particulars for 1887, the following statement which was given in Mr. C. J. Irving's report for 1886:—

Name of Society.	Total Numbers registered 1877–1887.	Registered.			Actual Subscribers (approximately), 1887.	Nationalities.
		1885.	1886.	1887.		
Toa Peh Kong, *alias* Kien Tek - -	17,628	1,631	1,260	2,083	2,000	Chiefly Hokkiens.
Ghee Hin - -	59,470	5,509	6,974	11,223	4,000	Hokkiens, Techius, Cantonese, Khehs, Hailams.
Ho-Seng - -	12,402	1,418	1,081	1,182	1,000	
Chun Sim - -	2,359	23	—	—	600	Chiefly Hokkiens.
Hoi San - -	722	26	39	48	400	Chiefly Khehs.
Total -	92,581	8,607	9,354	14,536	8,000	

Offences.

52. With the exception of a street fight between members of the Ghee Hin and Ho Seng Societies in January 1887, which found mention in my predecessor's Report for last year, the peace of the Settlement has not been disturbed by riotous behaviour on the part of "Dangerous Societies;" a quarrel between Ghee Hins and Toa Peh Kongs at Penaga, in Province Wellesley, might have led to trouble, had it not been for the prompt intervention of the authorities.

53. Chinese secret societies in the Straits Settlements do not confine their operations and influence to the Colony. Their ramifications extend to the Peninsula (Protected Native States, Independent Malay States, and Siamese territory), so that quarrels in territories beyond the Colony may affect the peace of these Settlements, and *vice versâ*. Serious disturbances, which took place in 1887 between members of different societies at mining towns in Pérak, suggest the question whether it is advisable any longer to permit the existence of organisations by the agency of which men living in British territory take advantage of the leniency of Colonial law to use power and influence in Native States where secret societies are illegal.

54. Reporting on Chinese secret societies for 1887, the Superintendent of Police (Mr. R. W. Maxwell), an officer of great experience, says:—"These have given but little trouble. In "every case, however, serious or otherwise, the headmen continue "to champion the cause of every prisoner of their society. I "cannot say that the societies are of any assistance to the police "in tracing crime or in bringing prisoners to justice, unless it "happens to suit them. I can see no advantage whatever, on the "contrary I see many disadvantages, in allowing secret societies to "continue to exist."

LAND REVENUE AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

Re-organisation.

55. Steady progress has been made during 1887 in the organisation of the system under which Crown rents (and rates and taxes in country districts) are to be collected in future.

Sub-division of Penang Island.

56. The island of Penang has been divided into two districts, the South-west District under a District Officer (Mr. O'Sullivan) living at Balik Pulau, and the North-east District under the Collector of Land Revenue (Mr. Bryant) in George Town.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

Each of these districts has been again sub-divided into *mukims*, or parishes, the limits of which have been defined by marks.

These are as follows :—

North-east District.	*South-west District.*
Batu Feringgi.	Pantai Acheh.
Tanjong Tokong.	Teluk Bahang.
Ayer Itam.	Sungei Pinang.
Ayer Itam Hills.	Sungei Rusa.
Paya Trubong.	Batu Itam.
Paya Trubong Hills.	Permatang Pasir.
Pulau Jerejak and Islets.	Ayer Puteh.
The Municipality.	Bagan Ayer Itam.
	Titi Tras.
	Kongsi.
	Pondok Upeh.
	Sungei Burong.
	Pulau Bĕtong.
	Gĕnting.
	Bukit Pasir Panjang.
	Bukit Gĕmúroh.
	Teluk Kumbar.
	Bayan Lepas.
	Relau.
	Relau Hills.

Province Wellesley.

57. In 1887 there was only one District Officer (Mr. Wray) in Province Wellesley. The district assigned to him was sub-divided during the year into *mukims*, the demarcation of which is proceeding.

When an accurate register of holdings has been prepared for each *mukim* separately, when the liability of each holder for land rent and land assessment (5 per cent. on the annual value) has been determined, and when selected native sub-collectors have been allotted to districts of convenient size, the land revenue machinery may be said to be complete.

Want of Survey.

58. Want of survey retards in many cases the completion of the registers of holdings, which I have placed first among the requirements above-mentioned. In the South-west District, however, which is the most advanced, the District Officer (Mr. O'Sullivan) is able to report that "the district has been "sub-divided into 20 *mukims*, of which the demarcation is now "almost complete. A territorial rent-roll has been prepared and "forwarded to Singapore to be printed. The numbers in the rent-"roll correspond with lot numbers in the *mukim* maps, which are

" adopted by the Survey Department, and will also be the reference " numbers in the fair registers of holdings. When these latter have " been copied out, the whole system will be uniform and complete " and the confusion of former years will have ceased to exist."

Improved Land Revenue.

59. The improvement in the land revenue of Penang and Province Wellesley in 1887 is very marked. The year under notice may be regarded as the first year in which the effect of the reforms commenced in 1885 have begun to be felt. I subjoin a comparative table showing the collections under each sub-head in the last three years:—

	1885.	1886.	1887.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Premium on leases and grants	970 13	4,479 28	10,303 29
Land rents	22,243 31	26,669 91	38,262 65
Beach rents	—	—	178 98
Grazing lands and gardens	3,820 25	4,172 25	3,467 25
Tenths—coral and granite	160 00	190 75	868 18
Timber royalty	1,520 17	1,195 79	1,335 47
Fees on issue of notices	661 50	884 00	2,223 20
Fees for registration and preparation of grants	—	—	1,750 70
Fees for search, registration of deeds, &c.	5,613 50	7,386 10	8,491 50
Expenses of preliminary survey	—	—	1,647 28
Miscellaneous	650 75	1,238 63	1,639 44
Total	35,639 61	46,216 71	70,167 94

60. The collections under "Land Rents" include, of course, large arrears, and as the efficiency of the Department increases, arrears will cease to swell the receipts. But much of the improvement under this head will be permanent. The District Officer at Bukit Mertajam (Mr. Wray) reports that the "agreements" for land already issued in his district under Ordinance II. of 1886, represent a permanent addition to the revenue of $2,467.15, and a great deal more may be expected as settlement proceeds. At Balik Pulau the settlement proceedings have caused a permanent addition to the rent-roll of about $5,000.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
—
PENANG.

Issue of Titles.

61. The issue of titles has gone on more rapidly than in recent years. The following statement shows the number of statutory grants, leases, and agreements issued in 1886 and 1887. (Leases are no longer issued, the Crown title in use being a statutory land grant in the form laid down in Ordinance II. of 1886.)

	1886.		1887.	
	No.	Area.	No.	Area.
PENANG ISLAND.		A. R. P.		A. R. P.
Statutory grants	50	86 3 0	204	483 2 11
Leases	1	0 1 27	—	—
Agreements	11	31 2 0	42	196 3 37
Total	62	118 2 27	246	680 2 08
PROVINCE WELLESLEY.				
Statutory grants	31	207 2 25	70	1,544 1 35
Leases	226	1,319 0 12	—	—
Agreements	29	78 0 39	329	1,538 0 38
Total	286	1,604 3 36	401*	3,084 0 33

Survey.

62. The whole "Survey Question" was under review during the year, and an Officer of the Survey of India (Lieutenant Colonel Barron, B.S.C.) was specially deputed to inquire and report upon the situation. His report is still under the consideration of Government.

Revenue Survey.

63. The new survey of the island of Penang under Mr. E. W. Laseron was continued during the year, but the allotment survey was temporarily discontinued during the first half of the year, in anticipation of Colonel Barron's inquiries, and only resumed after his departure from Penang. In the interval, the Survey Staff were employed in traversing main and minor circuits, forest-reserves, rivers, streams, and roads all over the island.

* *Sic.*

Return of Work done.

64. The total out-turn of allotments surveyed during the year was 892 allotments, comprising about 8,000 acres, exclusive of forest reserves, or 16,665 acres inclusive of forest reserves.

FOREST RESERVES AND GARDENS.

Forest Reserves.

65. No addition was made during the year to the forest reserves demarcated in 1885–1886, but these reserved areas were protected and their boundaries cleared. Waste land was planted up with mahogany trees as an experiment.

66. The area of the forest reserves is approximately 8,833 acres. They were surveyed in 1887 by the revenue surveyors, and the rough estimate given in last year's report may now be corrected as follows :—

Reserve.	Area.
Main Range	3,664
Bukit Laksamana	1,160
Batu Feringgi	225
N. W. Reserve	2,808
Bukit Pulau Bĕtong	475
Bukit Gĕnting	40
Bukit Penara	234
The Highlands	227
Total	8,833

Public Gardens.

67. The Waterfall Gardens have been greatly improved and are an ornament to the Settlement and a credit to Mr. Curtis, who has had to supervise their laying out and management since they were first designed in 1885.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

SHIPPING AND TRADE.

Arrivals and Departures.

68. The statistics recorded in the Harbour Master's Office show the number and tonnage of the vessels which arrived at and left the port in 1886 and 1887 to have been as follows :—

	1886.		1887.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Arrivals.				
Steam and square-rigged -	2,449	1,452,593	2,507	1,452,473
Native craft - - -	2,035	55,761	3,019	71,760
Total - -	4,484	1,508,354	5,526	1,524,233
Departures.				
Steam and square-rigged -	2,454	1,271,318	2,424	1,459,520
Native craft - - -	2,692	70,922	3,255	79,563
Total - -	5,146	1,342,240	5,679	1,539,083

69. The return must be taken as approximate, and not absolutely accurate; discrepancies, which will be remarked in perusing the respective numbers and tonnage of arrivals and departures, are due, probably, to occasional irregularity in furnishing returns, which it is difficult to prevent in a free port.

70. The figures seem to indicate unusual activity in the trade carried in native craft.

71. A statement showing the ports of departure and destination of the vessels frequenting the port in 1887 will be found in Appendix C.*

Lighthouses and Light Dues.

72. The sum of $14,469.95 was collected in 1887 in respect of light dues, as compared with $8,149.43 in 1886, the increase being ascribable, principally, to the enhancement of the rate leviable, which came into effect on the 1st of January 1887, under the provisions of an Order in Council dated 15th October 1886.

Pulau Rimau Lighthouse.

73. A new and improved burner and reflector were received towards the end of the year for Pulau Rimau Lighthouse, which will, it is hoped, add materially to the range of this light.

* Not printed.

Imports and Exports.

74. The following statement shows the values of the imports and exports in 1886 and 1887, respectively, and the quarters whence and whither the merchandise was imported and exported :—

Countries.	1886.		1887.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom - -	4,305,604	8,992,093	5,388,904	9,874,547
Other European countries -	1,061,535	3,487,679	1,320,168	1,406,045
British Burmah - -	5,567,921	998,166	4,729,586	1,572,010
British India - - -	2,907,689	1,880,045	3,774,673	1,484,682
Hongkong - - -	4,575,727	3,974,878	6,157,696	3,303,023
Other British Possessions -	89,772	18,621	100,231	17,622
Malay Peninsula, West -	5,849,641	5,222,519	8,209,636	5,657,061
Siam, west coast - -	3,737,887	1,942,525	3,750,232	2,307,841
Netherlands India - -	7,774,140	8,490,058	5,341,722	10,015,413
China - - - -	670,318	1,171,574	488,061	810,923
Other Asiatic countries and Egypt.	1,567,245	498,005	3,111,841	44,636
United States - -	205,737	1,468,407	334,150	1,483,879
Singapore and Malacca -	2,881,076	2,067,937	3,662,973	4,311,891
Total - -	41,194,292	40,212,507	46,369,873	42,289,573

Value.

75. The following shows the values of the imports and exports in 1886 and 1887 of a few of the principal articles :—

Articles.	1886.		1887.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	$	$	$	$
Grain and flour - -	5,749,792	5,192,182	5,358,415	4,137,436
Opium - - -	1,472,482	1,487,991	1,842,798	1,621,533
Chandu - - -	—	600	5,600	2,950
Spices - - -	3,098,714	4,185,429	3,764,791	4,854,196
Sugar - - - -	105,035	1,490,552	102,538	1,315,656
Tobacco and cigars - -	4,921,134	3,452,321	1,966,509	1,159,271
Tin - - - -	8,759,423	10,010,167	11,192,649	12,440,532

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

CURRENCY.

Bank Imports of Specie.

76. The following statement has been compiled from returns of the imports of specie in 1886 and 1887, with which the managers of the banks have been so good as to furnish me:—

Imports, 1886 and 1887.	Mexican Dollars.	Spanish Pillar Dollars.	Japanese Yens.	Total.
1886.	$	$	$	$
Europe - - -	1,836,900	—	—	1,836,900
China - - -	825,600	286,000	—	1,111,600
Japan - - -	—	—	2,355,000	2,355,000
Singapore - -	215,000	17,000	—	232,000
Total, 1886 -	2,877,500	303,000	2,355,000	5,535,500
1887.				
Europe - - -	1,860,030	—	—	1,860,030
China - - -	615,400	6,200	230,000	851,600
Japan - - -	—	—	3,168,000	3,168,000
Singapore - -	100,000	47,830	200,000	347,830
America - - -	60,000	—	—	60,000
Manila - - -	—	302,700	—	302,700
India - - -	—	25,700	—	25,700
Netherlands India -	—	18,000	—	18,000
Total, 1887 -	2,635,430	400,430	3,598,000	6,633,860

Bank Notes.

77. The bank note circulation of the three banks in Penang at the close of 1887 amounted to $2,732,890 as against $1,989,320 at the close of 1886. The certified amount of the specie reserve on December 31st, 1887, was $1,440,000 as against $830,000 at the end of the previous year.

POST OFFICE.

Postal Business.

78. The following statements give the figures for 1886 and 1887 in regard to the Post Office business in the three branches, Post Office proper, Money Order Office, and Savings Bank :—

Post Office business.	1886.		1887.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters - - -	227,712	205,430	321,148	272,758
Newspapers - - -	62,296	25,630	81,004	29,794
Books, &c. - - -	22,069	7,582	18,310	11,519
Total - -	312,077	238,642	420,462	314,071

Money Order business.	1886.		1887.	
	Issued.	Paid.	Issued.	Paid.
	$	$	$	$
Local - - - -	4,348	2,037	4,189	1,749
Native States - - -	1,237	11,145	738	14,983
India - - -	16,410	967	34,902	1,272
France, China, Ceylon -	—	—	—	—
Australia and Mauritius -	3,376	203	2,586	112
United Kingdom - -	6,457	562	6,623	590
Total - -	31,828	14,914	49,038	18,706

Saving Bank.	1886.	1887.
Accounts opened - - - -	108	133
Accounts closed - - - -	108	229
Accounts open at the end of the year -	162	207
	$	$
Deposited during the year - - -	19,226	23,990
Repaid during the year - - -	19,768	19,526
Interest credited to depositors - -	788	1,145
Balance due to depositors at the close of the year - - - - - -	22,989	28,641

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

79. The question of providing the Settlement with a weekly mail to and from Europe has not been lost sight of. Several methods of effecting this present themselves; *e.g.*, a direct service of steamers between Singapore and Penang, in connexion with the arrivals and departures of the contract packets of the Messageries Maritimes Company, the adaptation of the existing service of steamers between Negapatam and Penang for carrying mails to and from England in connexion with the weekly Indian Mail viâ Bombay, &c., &c.

The second of these proposals has obvious advantages, but it may be feared that the breaks in the chain of communication are so numerous as to affect the practical utility of the Negapatam-Bombay route for the conveyance of Penang mails homeward.

80. The mercantile interest in Penang would probably be best served by establishing a connexion with Colombo. It remains to be seen whether, for a reasonable subsidy, it is possible to establish a direct mail service between Colombo and Penang, leaving Colombo immediately after the arrival at that port of the outward M. M. Steamer, and arriving there 12 hours prior to the hour fixed for the departure of the homeward M. M. Steamer.

81. During the year, telegraph stations have been established at three sub-post offices in Province Wellesley, namely, Butterworth, Bukit Tambun, and Nibong Tebal, which are thus in telegraph communication with Penang and Pérak. The scheme contemplates that the sub-postmasters shall also be telegraph signallers. One has already qualified.

82. A native community takes time to learn and appreciate the advantages of improved telegraphic and postal communication, and the business of the new telegraph offices in their first year has not been large. It may be expected to improve as the system becomes better known.

83. Telegraphic communication with Balik Pulau (Penang) and Bukit Mertajam (Province Wellesley) is much required.

STATISTICS.

84. The following tables show the number of messages received and despatched since the opening of these stations on May 1st:—

Messages received.

Stations.	Messages.
Penang	2,286
Butterworth	425
Bukit Tambun	97
Nibong Tebal	98
Total	2,906

Messages despatched.

Stations.	Messages.
Penang - - - - - -	2,520
Butterworth - - - - -	377
Bukit Tambun* - - - - - -	74
Nibong Tebal* - - - - - -	98
Total - - - - -	3,069

* Opened November 1st, 1887.

EDUCATION.

85. The education obtainable in the best schools in the Settlement is limited to the acquirement of the knowledge required to enable a boy to pass the Sixth Standard. To do this presupposes a fair knowledge of reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography.

86. No higher education is to be obtained in the Settlement, and the consequence is that really educated men are not to be met with among those who have received their education exclusively in local schools. An English education up to and including the Sixth Standard is given in the Free School, St. Francis Xavier's Institution, the Convent and the St. George's Girls' School. In the Government Branch School (Charasta) and the Mission School, Pulau Tikus, only the first four Standards are taught.

87. The number of Malay Vernacular Schools open on the 31st December 1887 was 57, viz., 23 in Penang, and 34 in Province Wellesley. In these, education is free. In reading and writing, the native (Perso-Arabic) character is taught, though the method successfully adopted by the Dutch in their Eastern Colonies of employing the Roman character has many advantages. These schools in 1887 gave employment to 112 teachers. The aggregate number of pupils at the end of the year was 2,899.

District English Schools.

88. The Government School at Balik Pulau was closed during the year. Both at Balik Pulau (Penang) and Nibong Tebal (Province Wellesley) a desire exists among the natives to have English education for their children, and they have been informed that any school established among them for such a purpose which shows signs of being fairly successful will receive a grant-in-aid from Government.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

Female Education.

89. There are now six Vernacular Schools for girls in Penang and two in Province Wellesley. Difficulty is experienced in obtaining efficient teachers. The total number of pupils in these schools at the end of the year was 271.

Enrolment and Attendance at all Schools.

90. I append a statement giving particulars of the enrolment and attendance at all schools in 1886 and 1887 and of the "passes" obtained at the annual Government examination :—

Schools.	1886.					1887.				
	No. of Schools.	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Presented for Examination.	Per-centage of Passes.	No. of Schools.	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Presented for Examination.	Per-centage of Passes.
Free School - - -	1	541	450	401	67	1	473	397	384	69
St. Xavier's Institution -	1	255	220	176	92	1	292	248	186	86
Pulau Tikus Mission School -	1	95	82	71	66	1	91	80	56	89
Government English School -	1	247	226	148	90	1	256	230	176	94
Vernacular Schools :—										
Penang - - -	24	1,436	1,262	849	77	23	2,672	2,374	1,068	82
Province Wellesley - -	36	1,438	1,227	809	64	34			870	74
Tamil Mission School - -	1	46	33	23	80	1	38	28	25	92
Convent Girls' School - -	1	275	253	119	89	1	295	262	116	96
St. George's Girls' School -	1	36	24	17	71	1	53	43·2	35	92
Vernacular Girls' Schools, Penang.	6	209	179	32	88	5	285	247	126	73
Tamil Mission Girls' School -	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	8	6	83

General.

91. The state of the school is good and improving, and vernacular education may be said to be making more marked progress in Penang and Province Wellesley than in the other Settlements of the Colony. The Malays of the north are, speaking generally, more intelligent and more free from prejudice than those of Malacca, and, in Penang and Province Wellesley, they form a more settled population than is to be found in the few really Malay villages of Singapore. Returns of enrolment and attendance in the Vernacular Schools in Penang and Province Wellesley show especially good results, ascribable partly to the above causes and partly to the efficient superintendence and management of the Superintendent of Education (Mr. Jacobson).

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

SUPREME COURT.

92. Reckoning as two days the days on which two judges were presiding in separate courts, and excluding the five days on which three judges sat together on the court of appeal, the court sat in 1887 :—

	1886.	1887.
	Days.	Days.
On the criminal side - -	84	114
On the civil side - - -	167	199
On the ecclesiastical side - -	38	34
Total - -	289	347

In addition, the registrar sat as a judge for the hearing of ecclesiastical cases on 36 days.

93. The criminal cases tried in 1886 and 1887 were as follows :—

	Numbers of Prisoners.			
	1886.		1887.	
	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
Murder - - -	5	8	—	5
Attempt to murder - -	2	1	5	2
Manslaughter - - -	5	2	16	11
Grievous hurt - - -	12	5	8	12
Other offences against the person -	28	8	19	11
Robbery with violence - -	16	13	39	31
Theft, housebreaking - -	47	23	48	25
Other offences against property -	8	4	19	8
Miscellaneous offences - -	18	26	24	8
Total - -	141	90	178	113
	231		291	

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

94. The business on the civil, ecclesiastical, and bankruptcy sides of the court during 1887 and the two preceding years is stated in the following table :—

Year.	Civil Actions.						Probate and Administration.		Debtors' Summonses and Bankruptcy Cases.	
	Pending from previous years.	Commenced.	Debt or Damages claimed.	Compromised, dismissed, &c.	Adjudicated upon.	Pending at close of year.	No.	Amount.	Debtors' Summonses.	Bankruptcy Cases.
			$					$		
1885 - - -	710	634	440,727	68	268	1,002	203	358,112	3	3
1886 - - -	1,002	704	411,328	281	791	634	659	721,756	2	5
1887 - - -	634	737	528,061	689	381	301	1,065	566,657	2	6

95. By "the District Delegates Ordinance 1887," the Supreme Court has been relieved of a good deal of work on its ecclesiastical side, but with two judges permanently sitting in Penang it may be doubted whether the department which has to perform the ministerial part of the work of the court, viz., the registrar's office, is sufficiently strong. The working of this department, especially in regard to applications for letters of administration, as to which I found it necessary to make a special report to Government in July 1887, has been inquired into by a committee, which was still sitting when the year closed. The disassociation of the civil and criminal duties and the appointment of a separate clerk of the Crown (which would leave the registrar free to attend to the civil work) would, perhaps, provide the needed relief.

Court Buildings.

96. The growth of judicial work and the necessity of conducting the business of two courts in a building originally designed for that of one, have again rendered it necessary to consider the advisability of re-building or greatly enlarging the present court. This will be a matter for decision in 1888.

MINOR COURTS.

Police Courts and Courts of Requests.

97. The following statements give particulars of the business done in the courts:—

Police Court.	1886. Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.
George Town	208	8,428	4,701	124	13,461
Balik Pulau	14	365	153	—	532
Relau	15	126	41	—	182
Butterworth	27	1,092	693	37	1,849
Penaga	3	143	53	14	213
Bukit Tambun	14	661	241	7	923
Nibong Tebal	8	604	237	—	850
Bukit Mertâjam	7	626	377	12	1,022
Marine Magistrate	—	23	—	—	28

(*continued.*)

Police Court.	1887. Committed for Trial.	Convicted or bound over.	Discharged.	Undecided.	Total.
George Town	203	10,407	5,157	130	15,897*
Balik Pulau	7	135	324	Nil	466
Relau	4	95	69	2	170
Butterworth	42	1,466	609	15	2,132
Penaga	3	226	189	7	425
Bukit Tambun	14	893	322	2	1,231
Nibong Tebal	5	771	247	6	1,029
Bukit Mertâjam	12	686	467	12	1,177
Marine Magistrate	—	68	8	—	76

* Four extradition cases.

Court of Requests. (Jurisdiction up to $50.)	1886. No. of Cases.	1886. Amount of Debt or Damages.	1887. No. of Cases.	1887. Amount of Debt or Damages.
		$ c.		$ c.
George Town	2,966	38,797 00	2,968	38,232 32
Balik Pulau	128	1,153 00	31	518 57
Relau	67	758 00	51	582 07
Butterworth	301	4,155 93	262	3,880 53
Penaga	192	1,585 71	99	1,427 49
Bukit Tambun	116	1,518 02	86	1,250 94
Nibong Tebal	126	1,481 15	109	1,210 67
Bukit Mertâjam	252	2,653 38	107	1,167 19

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

Coroners.

98. Coroners' inquests to the number of 240 were held during the year, as against 158 in 1886.

The following statement gives particulars of the verdicts :—

	1886.			1887.		
	Penang.	Province Wellesley.	Total.	Penang.	Province Wellesley.	Total.
Homicide, culpable, amounting to murder -	8	2	10	6	20	26
Do. culpable, not amounting to murder - - - -	4	1	5	4	2	6
Do. through rash and negligent act -	1	—	1	2	3	5
Do. justifiable - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. by misadventure - - -	—	—	—	1	—	1
Felo-de-se - - - - -	14	15	29	5	14	19
Self-destruction under temporary insanity -	—	—	—	3	—	3
Death in pursuance of judicial sentence -	3	—	3	—	—	—
Natural causes, accidental death, &c. -	59	51	110	110	70	180
Total - - - - -	89	69	158	131	109	240

POLICE,

Strength and Distribution.

99. The strength and distribution of the police force at the end of the year was as follows :—

Officers.—Superintendent (Mr. R. W. Maxwell) and an assistant superintendent (Mr. R. Cuscaden) in Penang, and an assistant superintendent (Mr. E. Hogge) in Province Wellesley.

Inspectors.—Five inspectors in Penang and four in Province Wellesley.

European Contingent.—Five sergeants and 12 constables.

Sikh Contingent.—Two sergeants, two corporals, and 60 constables.

Malay and Kling Contingent.—One sergeant-major, eight sergeants, 29 corporals, and 398 constables in Penang, and one

sergeant-major, six sergeants, 18 corporals, and 206 constables in Province Wellesley.

Distribution.	Stations.	Europeans.	Sikhs.	Malays and Klings.
Penang.				
Municipality - - -	14	18	65	326
North-east District - - -	5	—	—	31
South-west District - - -	7	2	—	63
Province Wellesley.				
Northern District - - -	10	2	—	124
Central District - - -	6	2	—	57
Southern District - -	7	2	—	66

Police Stations.

100. The proposed new station at Dusun Lada was not built in 1887, but the police stations at Simpang Ampat and Sungei Bakap (Province Wellesley) were re-constructed instead. Two new stations were built during the year at Pulau Kra and Permatang Damar Laut, which were occupied on the 8th and 17th February 1888, respectively.

Officers.

101. The demands upon the higher officers of the force were unusually severe during the year, Province Wellesley having been without an assistant superintendent from March to October, and its supervision having fallen, therefore, upon Mr. R. W. Maxwell and Mr. Cuscaden. For a month, during which the latter officer was incapacitated through illness, the superintendent was single-handed.

Inspectors and European Contingent.

102. The activity and intelligence of the inspectors are favourably reported on. The conduct of the European police has been good. This contingent has not been up to its authorised strength during 1887; it is a valuable element in the force as the training school of future sergeants and inspectors.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

Sikh Contingent.

103. The Sikh Contingent perform guard and escort duty only, but the superintendent would like to see a limited number of them employed on "beats" as well. The physique of recruits presenting themselves is reported to show a falling off.

Malays and Klings.

104. The Malay and Kling Contingent must always be the back-bone of the force. It may be hoped that contact with the European and Sikh Contingents will gradually improve the local men, the former as regards smartness, activity, and the exercise of reasonable intelligence, and the latter in drill and discipline. Slackness on the part of native non-commissioned officers is a point which the superintendent mentions and laments.

Crimes of Violence.

105. Serious crimes, gang-robberies, and murders have, I regret to say, been somewhat numerous, but activity of the police and the wholesome severity with which convicted gang-robbers have been treated in the Supreme Court have, it is believed, checked for a time the operations of the class of marauders who make gang-robbery a profession. The limited area of our territory in Province Wellesley, and the ease with which a band of men can cross the frontier, commit a robbery in British territory and recross into Kedah territory must, as long as these circumstances remain unchanged, operate as an inducement to the lawless and adventurous to attempt this class of crime.

Lawlessness in Contiguous Native Territory.

106. Kulim, a district and mining settlement in Kedah territory, just beyond the frontier of Province Wellesley, continues to deserve the bad character which was given to it in Mr. Irving's report for 1886, para. 87.

Public Gaming-Houses.

107. Comparatively little has been heard during the year of offences against "The Gaming-House Ordinance," and it may be hoped that the evil to which public attention was so recently drawn has received a permanent check. But the Superintendent of Police reports that "a very serious nuisance is caused in the town "by the number of so-called 'clubs.' These have been started "since the breaking up of the Beach Street gambling hells, and they "are, with but few exceptions, carried on simply for the purpose of "gambling. Several prosecutions have taken place and convictions "[been] obtained."

Murder Cases.

108. In estimating the efficiency of the police force in detecting crime, reference may be made to the following statement:—

Twenty verdicts of culpable homicide were returned by coroner's inquests in 1887.

In 17 of these cases, arrests were made and prosecutions instituted.

In 13 there have been convictions in the Supreme Court.

There are no cases pending.

109. The numbers of reports of offences made at police stations and of cases discovered in 1886 and 1887 were as follows:—

	1886.	1887.
Reported - - - -	5,793	5,538
Discovered - - - -	3,772	3,702

PRISONS.

Gaoler and European Staff.

110. The Superintendent of Prisons (Mr. C. W. S. Kynnersley) reports favourably of the conduct of the European staff during the year, and of the discipline maintained by the gaoler, Mr. T. H. Lamb. The native warders are still reported to be as a class untrustworthy and inefficient.

Accommodation.

111. There is separate cell accommodation in the Criminal Prison for 296 prisoners, and the daily average number in 1887 was 326.11.

Statistics.

112. The returns show that fewer European and Malay prisoners were received in 1887 than in 1886, but the committals of Chinese and Klings are in excess of those of last year, and the total number of prisoners received in 1887 exceeds the total for 1886 by 160.

European Prisoners.

113. The Europeans were for the most part soldiers and sailors.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

Hard Labour.

114. Shot drill was discontinued in 1886, and the only form of hard labour on which prisoners are now employed is stone-breaking. The hours of work are 9½ hours a day, of which 7¾ hours are actually spent in breaking stone, the remainder of the time being occupied in removing broken stone and fetching the rough materials. The daily task for each man is 5½ cubic feet of road-metal broken to pass through an iron ring of 2½″ diameter.

Receipts.

115. The broken metal is sold to the municipality at 10 cents a cubic yard. The receipts on this account in 1887 amounted to $1,329.20.

Penal Diet.

116. An experiment, which was watched with some interest during the year, was the introduction of a reduced diet scale affecting prisoners of a certain class. From January 1st, 1887, no prisoner sentenced to hard labour for six weeks, or less, received full diet. Rations on the reduced scale were issued also to all prisoners in the lower grade on two days in each week. The health of the prisoners has remained excellent, and the change in the regimen, while probably adding to the efficiency of prison discipline, has been proved to be not prejudicial to the well-being of the persons undergoing sentence.

Diet Scales.

117. The following are the diet scales now in force for native prisoners:—

	Long sentence.	Short sentence.	Penal.	Punishment.
	Ounces daily.	Same as for long sentence, except that 4 oz. of salt fish is substituted for 6 oz. of fresh meat six days a week.	Ounces daily.	Ounces daily.
Rice	14		20	18
Fresh meat	6		—	—
Fresh fish	4		—	—
Vegetables	7		4	—
Beans	5		5	6
Dholl	2		—	—
Cocoanut oil	1		—	—
Curry stuff	1		1	—
Salt	1		¾	1
Wheat flour	4½		4½	4½

Committals and Discharges.

118. Particulars of the committals and discharges of prisoners in 1886 and 1887, classified according to nationality, may be obtained from the following statement :—

	1886.					
	Remaining.	Committed.	Discharged.	Transferred.	Died.	Executed.
Civil Prison.						
Europeans and Eurasians -	1	10	9	1	—	—
Chinese - - -	32	1,259	1,160	80	1	3
Malays - - -	9	191	163	24	1	—
Klings - - -	5	120	103	16	—	—
Total - -	47	1,580	1,435	121	2	3
Criminal Prison.						
Europeans and Eurasians -	7	46	51	—	—	—
Chinese - - -	194	1,463	1,357	86	11	—
Malays - - -	44	265	232	29	—	—
Klings - - -	53	1,151	1,098	17	—	—
Total - -	298	2,925	2,738	132	11	—

	1887.						
	Remaining.	Committed.	Discharged.	Transferred.	Died.	Executed.	Remaining.
Civil Prison.							
Europeans and Eurasians -	1	11	12	—	—	—	—
Chinese - - -	47	1,293	1,201	112	—	—	27
Malays - - -	12	196	176	25	—	—	7
Klings - - -	6	129	113	13	—	—	9
Total - -	66	1,629	1,502	150	—	—	43
Criminal Prison.							
Europeans and Eurasians -	2	30	24	2	—	—	6
Chinese - - -	201	1,526	1,442	104	1	—	180
Malays - - -	48	256	233	21	—	—	50
Klings - - -	89	1,273	1,250	13	1	—	98
Total - -	340	3,085	2,949	140	2	—	334

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

PENANG.

Comparative Return of Committals for Eleven Years.

119. The return given last year of prisoners committed annually from 1877 inclusive is subjoined, with the addition of the figures for 1887 :—

1877 - - - -	2,181
1878 - - - -	2,873
1879 - - - -	2,542
1880 - - - -	2,511
1881 - - - -	1,717
1882 - - - -	1,824
1883 - - - -	1,782
1884 - - - -	1,965
1885 - - - -	2,490
1886 - - - -	2,925
1887 - - - -	3,085

120. The new prison ward at the Pauper Hospital will relieve the prison of a certain number of non-effectives. This building was completed, but not occupied by prisoners, in 1887, for it was found necessary to use it temporarily as a small-pox hospital (see *supra* para. 17).

121. I am strongly of opinion that a house of correction should be erected in Province Wellesley for short-sentence prisoners. The establishment of a district officer at Bukit Mertajam affords an agency by means of which such an institution can be efficiently superintended at this, the most central position in Province Wellesley. Reference to the statistics given in paragraphs 34–36 of this Report will show how much unnecessary labour is now expended in taking to the Penang Prison men who, in the course of a few days, or weeks, have to be taken back again.

122. A reformatory, or rather an industrial school, to which juvenile offenders and destitute boys could be sent for a term of years and brought up to some useful trade would, in my opinion, be a useful institution. One of the magistrates has reported to me that of the juvenile offenders convicted in the Police Court, Penang, about half have previous convictions, and few have any fixed place of abode or proper guardianship.

GENERAL.

Ordinance IX. of 1887.

123. Preparations for the changes consequent on the passing of "The Municipal Ordinance 1887" (to take effect from 31 January 1888), added greatly to the work of the Resident Councillor's Office in the latter part of the year. In Singapore and Malacca the country rates and taxes collected by the late municipalities were comparatively trifling in amount, but in Penang and Province Wellesley the revenue transferred to the Government is

estimated for 1888 at $35,000 (a low estimate) and the organisation of the necessary establishments and the distribution of the duties among the various district officers have demanded considerable labour and attention.

Resident Councillor's Office.

124. The appointment of an assistant in the Resident Councillor's Office, on the necessity of which Mr. C. J. Irving laid some stress in his Annual Reports in 1885 and 1886, has not taken place. A permanent appointment of this nature is a necessity, which must, I feel sure, be sooner or later recognised, for it is a waste of power to occupy the time of the highest officer in the Settlement with routine work which can be more appropriately done by a subordinate. So much additional work is likely to devolve upon the Resident Councillor as President of the Municipal Commissioners, that efficient assistance such as is rendered in the Secretariat by an Assistant Colonial Secretary is more than ever required in the Resident Councillor's Office.

District Administration.

125. In view of the necessity of providing for the efficient collection of rates and taxes in country districts, and in furtherance of the general policy of district administration introduced by Sir Frederick Weld, provision was made in the Estimates for 1888, prepared last year, for an extension of the District Office system. It is proposed that the Magistrate, Province Wellesley, shall be Senior District Officer of Province Wellesley, having his residence at Butterworth and taking charge of the Northern District, and that a district officer be also placed at Nbong Tebal in the Southern District.

126. I am strongly in favour of re-distributing in this way the duties hitherto assigned to different departments, and of concentrating in the hands of local offices the power belonging to the Magistrate, the Collector of Land Revenue, and the Municipal Collector, and exercised formerly by these authorities independently of each other and without any local connexion with particular districts.

127. The District Offices at Balik Pulau and Bukit Mertajam are a success in every way. By their establishment the authority of Government has been strengthened and serious crime diminished, while protection against oppression has been brought within the reach of the poorest peasant. Suitable houses for the district officers at Balik Pulau and Bukit Mertajam were built in 1887, and the former district is hardly recognisable as the place which was described in the Annual Report of the Lieutenant-Governor of Penang, for 1879, as "but little known to Europeans "and rarely visited by officers of the Government, circumstances "which seem to account for the lawlessness and crime for which "the district has acquired an unenviable reputation."

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128. The passing of "The District Delegates' Ordinance 1887," has placed in the hands of district officers the power of granting probate and letters of administration on behalf of the Supreme Court, when the property of an intestate within the district does not exceed $500. This is a measure of relief which, when the system is in full working order, will be much appreciated by native landholders. Writing in June 1886, I reported to Government that "it is no exaggeration to say that by this procedure "(application to the Supreme Court) one quarter if not one half of "a small property is wasted before the formalities are complete." Investigations which I made personally in Penang and Province Wellesley last year proved that the grossest extortion has habitually been practised for years, by a class of unlicensed agents who undertake to obtain letters of administration for the next-of-kin of native intestates. (A committee under the presidency of Mr. Justice Pellereau was appointed to inquire into the matter, but their report was not received during the year under notice.) The necessary formalities can now be performed at the court of a district officer for a uniform fee of two dollars.

129. Regular communication between the island and the province being desirable both for travellers of all classes, and for the carriage of mails, it was resolved last year to subsidise a service of steam launches, and a contract was signed on the 16th June 1887 by which the contractor (Mr. Ebert) undertook to provide and maintain for five years, from 1st June 1888, a sufficient number of steam launches on this line. They will run every half hour throughout the day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The subsidy is $150 a month.

130. The Jubilee of the reign of Her Majesty the Queen was celebrated in Penang on the 27th and 28th June with befitting loyalty and enthusiasm on the part of all classes of the community.

General Progress.

131. The year has been one of prosperity and progress. Tin and tapioca, two of the principal articles of export from the Settlement, have commanded high prices, while the depreciation of silver has continued to benefit local producers. The sugar industry has suffered, but hopes are entertained that the Conference on the sugar bounties will lead to action which will ultimately benefit producers here. The development of the Protected Native States, which necessarily re-acts upon the towns of the Colony, benefits Penang in no small degree; the town is spreading, the price of land is high, and the buildings erected are of superior design and construction. In closing this review of a year's work in a place the gradual improvement of which I have been a witness of since 1864, I translate from the Malay address to Her Majesty presented by the Penang Muhammadans at the Jubilee the following words:—

"Fields have become streets lined with handsome house; forest and jungle have disappeared, giving place to orchards and gardens

and rice fields; swamp and foreshore, and even the bed of the sea itself in front of the town, have been reclaimed, and are now part of a busy port, thronged with people day and night, while the value of lands and houses have reached a figure which was never dreamed of by their owners—consequences, all these, of the beneficent rule of Her Majesty under which we live."

W. E. MAXWELL,
Acting Resident Councillor.

Resident Councillor's Office.
Penang, 1st March 1888.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT, MALACCA, 1887.

The year 1887 has been a fairly prosperous one for Malacca. The revenue shows an increase of $14,103.77 over that of last year, and is $11,293.80 more than was estimated. Some of the items which go to make up this increase, such as stamps and shipping dues, are indicative of extending trade. Exports and imports show an increase of $760,921 and $654,156 respectively, chiefly caused by a larger trade in tin.

2. The padi crop showed extraordinary promise, but was partly damaged by floods; a fair harvest was, however, obtained. A heavy rainfall in March, usually the height of the dry weather, ruined the fruit season, but the loss was partly made up by a good second fruit season in December, and as in July there was some threatening of an outbreak of cholera, it was a matter of congratulation that the first fruit crop had failed. Tapioca has yielded large profits, the price during the year having risen to over $7 a pikul.

3. Expenditure appears to show a heavy increase, but this is chiefly due to temporary causes, and is deceptive. By a new rule, December salaries were paid in December instead of, as hitherto, in the following January, so that 13 months' payments are entered under the heading of Establishments, and the additional month makes an increase of $12,802. The expenses of the Malacca Land Commission, and of work under "The Boundaries Ordinance," amounting to $8,642, form a special and exceptional item. In the Marine Department there is a heavy item of $12,997 which should not have been charged to Malacca, as it was for the cost of a steam launch which was never supplied. The former launch, the "Albuquerque," having been reported unsafe, and a really good seaboat being required for this unsheltered 50 miles of coast, the Finance Committee gave a special vote of $13,000 to build a suitable launch. When completed she was withheld, and the "Rosebud," a launch smaller and inferior to the original "Albuquerque," was sent instead. I am glad to say that a better launch, though not so good as the one built for us, has now been supplied, but both the cost of the

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latter and the repairs of the "Rosebud" have been charged to Malacca. The appointment of a district officer and staff for the south of Malacca is a permanent addition to expenditure. This appointment was made in May, but the district cannot be in full working order till quarters and offices are built. The district officer will eventually have three courts to attend to, besides the collection of revenue, and general supervision of his district. It is hoped that the residence of an English officer amongst the people will have a good effect.

4. The chief work of the year has been the bringing into effect of the new Land Ordinances. Besides the district officer for the south, a cadet has been added to the strength of the Land Office, in order to push on the registration of holdings, but it will take a considerable time to complete this work. The area to be dealt with covers nearly 700 square miles, the population is estimated at 100,000, and the holdings are generally very small. The country is divided into 67 districts, or mukims, as they are called, each having its headman, who is named Penghúlu, and whose principal duties are in respect of land.

5. A certain amount of discontent has been roused by the Land Ordinances, but this was to be expected. Reform of a slack administration, when directed towards the proper collection of taxes which were formerly evaded, and re-assessment of land held at nominal rents, were not likely to be popular. Registration has, however, brought to light the fact that land bears a higher value than was ever suspected. Private property is rented at much higher rates than Government land, and the latter is often taken up as a speculation to relet. I would instance a few cases in the district of Klébang Besar which I personally registered:—

Lot 4,665, containing 5A. 2R. 7P. let to a Malay for $50 a year; Government rent $5.60.

Lot 4,606, containing 5A. 2R. 7½P. let to Malays for $30 a year; Government rent $5.60.

Lot 4,663, containing 7A. 1R. 19P. let for $30; Government rent $7.50.

Private proprietors have informed me that they let their land at rents varying from $2 to $10 an acre, and evidence to this effect was brought before the Land Commission. In some cases land is let on the condition that a certain portion of the crop will be given to the landlord; this is usually one third, and in some cases as much as one half, and is equivalent to a very heavy rent.

6. In assessing Kawasan lands, that is, where the occupier possesses tenant right to the soil, it has been considered desirable to impose low rates, and although these rates are much higher than those hitherto paid, care has been taken not to raise them to as much as a strict enforcement of tenths would come to. The rates fixed vary from $1½ to half a dollar the acre. Lands held under these tenant rights command fair prices and are bought up

by Chinese for speculation, or building purposes. I give some of the highest rates in Klébang Besar at the seaside :—

	A. R. P.		$	
Lot 4,568	7 3 02	bought for	5,000	One good house.
„ 4,567	4 3 30	„	5,000	
„ 4,563	2 0 25	„	2,000	No house.
„ 2,989	2 2 04	„	2,500	
„ 2,987	3 0 00	„	1,500	
„ 4,490	2 2 02	„	1,100	

From $50 to $150 an acre is not unfrequently paid by Malays to each other for these Kawasan holdings, and in some cases higher prices even are given.

7. A Land Commission sat in November to determine the cla ms to compensation of the people whose rights were taken back under "The Tithe-Impropriators Ordinance," No. VIII. of 1886. In consideration of certain services, such as the making of roads, assistance to police, &c., the Dutch Government granted the right to levy tenths from the tenants in certain districts, and these rights have been inherited. The terms of the original titles were forgotten in lapse of years, and the holders claimed absolute proprietorship to the land. Difficulties between these tithe-impropriators and their tenants made the Government decide to do what was done in 1838 with most of the holders of such rights—to resume possession, paying compensation. The most important property involved was that held by Syed Mohamad Bin Husein al Habshi, usually called "Wan Chilek,"the Khazi of Malacca, who was much respected. He died very suddenly last July.

8. The health of the Settlement has not been good. In the middle of the year there were many deaths from cholera or choleraic diarrhœa. Small-pox later was prevalent, and cases of typhoid fever occurred, a disease formerly unknown. The rainfall in the year was much greater than in either of the two preceding ones, and floods occurred at unusual times. The heavy rains had the effect I have noticed in former years of bringing tigers near habitations; no less than 14 were killed during the year.

9. I would recommend that in the town of Malacca a higher jurisdiction should be given to the Commissioners of the Court of Requests. The limit at present is only $50. Any larger sum must be sued for in the Supreme Court, where sessions are held only three or four times in the year, and the consequent delay and expense are a serious hindrance to people seeking redress through its means. I have known many instances where a claim for a larger amount has been reduced to $50 in order to bring it within reach of cheap and prompt adjudication. I think it would be desirable to increase the limit of jurisdiction to $250 at least.

10. The Jubilee of Her Majesty was celebrated with great enthusisam last June. To the small portion allotted to Malacca out of the sum voted by the Legislative Council for the celebration,

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large amounts were added by the various Eastern Nationalities to provide processions, illuminations, &c. The Malay element in the demonstration was particularly interesting. Several Malay districts vied with each other in the preparation of rival processions, and these were accompanied by performers who sang native choruses in honour of Her Majesty, and in some cases by men who performed sword dances in a manner seldom to be seen out of up-country districts. The Chinese processions were also said to be finer than any that had ever before been seen in Malacca. Two inscribed tablets, which were carried in procession by the Chinese and Hindus, were forwarded for Her Majesty's gracious acceptance. Each section of the inhabitants presented its address, that by the Malays had nearly 20,000 signatures.

The contributors to the Women's Jubilee Memorial were also numerous—5,597 having subscribed.

11. I wish again to urge the importance of improving the water supply of the town, which is at present insufficient, and partly of bad quality. Those who can afford it purchase drinking water brought from Bukit China in carts for sale, but this supply is limited. The want of adequate water supply in the hot dry season is seriously felt, and must deeply affect the health of the town.

12. A most pressing want in Malacca is the means of easy transport to the interior, and this is more felt each year with the growing importance of the Native States on its borders. Since an officer has been placed in charge of the Negri Sembilan, they have much developed, and Chinese capital is being attracted to those provinces. Extensive tracts of land have been taken up for tapioca cultivation, and tin mining on a large scale is being commenced, the country showing great promise in that mineral. At present all transport is done by bullock carts, and their charge of $4 to $5 for 50 miles enhances considerably the cost of their loads. Perishable articles, such as fruit, are not worth conveyance for such a distance.

13. I entered into communication with Messrs. Hil and Rathborne, and obtained an estimate for a line of railway from Malacca to Kwala Jempol in Sri Menanti which I placed before his Excellency Sir Frederick Weld, shortly before his departure. This line would run through a cultivated country with a considerable population. The traffic is already considerable, and would be augmented by the new industries which have been commenced. I am of opinion that, in the first instance, it would be desirable to connect Malacca with Sungei Ujong via Linggi, following the established line of road, which would take in 15 mile of the line towards Sri Menanti, and in this direction it could be continued afterwards to Pahang, which by this route is easily accessible. Pahang has as yet no roads for inland traffic, and its seaboard is closed for six months in the year by the north-east monsoon. These schemes may sound visionary, but the experience of the last 10 years has shown us the rapid development of which the Malay States are capable under the influence of British protection and assistance in government, and there is no reason why

the experience of Pérak and Sĕlángor should not be repeated in Sri Menanti and Pahang. For the sake of Malacca, I trust that a line of communication will be opened which will ensure an impetus to its trade and prosperity.

E. E. ISEMONGER,
Acting Resident Councillor,
Malacca.

11th February 1888.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 26.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT ON THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty
1888.

LONDON:
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1888.

[C.—5249—23.]

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No. 26.

SIERRA LEONE.

Sir S. ROWE to LORD KNUTSFORD.

MY LORD, Government House, June 2, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Report on the Medical Department of this Settlement for the year 1887, which has been furnished by the Colonial Surgeon.

2. In the third paragraph the Colonial Surgeon states that it is very probable that a third medical officer will be shortly appointed on the ground that the duties cannot be attentively or efficiently performed unless a medical officer is resident and at hand.

3. I have the honour to say respectfully that it will be a matter of satisfaction to me that the public hospitals should be of the most perfect character and the medical staff as numerous as circumstances may render desirable; but in the present financial position of this Settlement it appears to me that the amount spent on medical establishments is a very fair share of the public revenue, and remembering that there is no Colonial secretary, no auditor, no Colonial surveyor at present in the Colony, and that the absence of these officers is only due to the fact that there is no money to pay them, I submit that the medical staff is numerically much more adequate to the duties required of it than is the staff of the Executive offices of the Settlement.

4. In paragraph 14 and subsequent ones the Colonial Surgeon makes reference to the desirability of the introduction of a "Medical Registration Act." His proposals will be laid before the Legislative Council at their next meeting.

5. I agree with the Colonial Surgeon that the general sanitary condition of the Settlement is still unsatisfactory, and that there is room for improvement in Freetown, and I shall be glad to find the Executive in possession of funds to carry out some of these works.

6. The same remark applies to the want of repair to the Kissy buildings and the improvement of the hospital buildings at Sherbro.

7. He makes reference to the improvement in the health of the prisoners and the non-occurrence of cases of beri-beri. The effect on the health of confinement of human beings unaccustomed to it has been a frequent matter of report in all parts of the world where native races need to be confined in public prisons.

SIERRA LEONE.

8. It will be satisfactory if the disease called beri-beri does not again present itself here; but it has been seen here frequently in previous years and is well known in many other parts of the tropics.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

COLONIAL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, SIERRA LEONE.

Annual Medical Report for 1887.

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I.—COLONIAL SURGEON'S REPORT.

Colonial Medical Department,
Sierra Leone, April 17, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, the Annual Medical Report and Returns of the Settlement of Sierra Leone for the year ending 31st December 1887.

2. There has been no change in the medical staff during the year. The duties in Freetown and Kissy, which will be shown in detail farther on, have been carried on by the Colonial Surgeon and one assistant.

3. The vacancy created by the removal of Dr. Cole to the Gold Coast Colony in the latter part of 1886 has not yet been filled up, but, as the Secretary of State for the Colonies has since approved of a successor, it is very probable that the third medical

* Not printed.

officer will be very shortly appointed on the ground that the duties, especially those in connexion with the Lunatic Asylum and Small-pox Hospital, cannot be attentively or efficiently performed unless a medical officer is resident and at hand.

4. The Colonial Surgeon was absent from the Colony on six months' leave of absence to England, from the 8th April to the 1st October. The affairs of the department during that period devolved on Dr. Renner, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, who, in conjunction with his own routine duties, and with occasional assistance from Surgeon-Major Davies, late A.M.S., performed the duties to the best of his ability.

5. Dr. Jarrett continues in charge of the Sherbro district and its public hospital, and Dr. Renner, who performs the routine of the Kissy institutions, resides for the present in Freetown, visiting them two or three times a week, and assists the Colonial Surgeon with the gaol, the out-patients of the Colonial Hospital, and the native officials entitled to medical care and treatment.

6. During the last three years considerable savings have been effected in the department, the Colonial and Gaol Hospitals, and in the prison dietary. The savings may be roughly estimated as follows, say for 1887 :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
In medicines - - -	206	0	0
In provisions - - -	236	0	0
Kerosine oil - - - -	17	12	0
On the full native diet of the prison -	179	17	11
	639	19	11

7. The public health during the year 1887 has been good. Fevers, remittent and intermittent types, have, as usual, prevailed. There has been no case of yellow fever in the Settlement, and only 19 cases of small-pox, which were imported from the interior.

8. Vaccination has not been extensively carried on, and has been limited only to persons and children who were unprotected and who were living in the houses or in the vicinity where cases had appeared.

9. Quarantine of observation was observed in several instances in connexion with ships arriving at Freetown with foul bills of health or having touched at suspected ports. During the latter part of the year it was reported that cholera was prevailing in the South of Europe and had appeared in New York. Precautions under the Quarantine Ordinance were therefore immediately put in force, and all vessels arriving here from North American ports were rigidly examined by the visiting officer before being granted *pratique*. Happily no such disease manifested itself amongst us.

10. On the 23rd October 1887 the s.s. "Madeira" arrived here, having had three deaths from malignant small-pox on the voyage from St. Paul de Loanda, the two last deaths having occurred within a week of the "Madeira's" arrival at this port. 11

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Krooboys, the pilot, and the labourers who coaled the steamer here, were placed in quarantine of observation in the "Barracoon" at Kissy; the 11 Krooboys underwent quarantine restrictions for 14 clear days from the date of the last deaths on board, and the pilot and labourers for 48 hours after leaving the ship. The latter were released after having been properly fumigated and disinfected.

11. The number of deaths for the year in Freetown is more this year as compared with the previous year and less than the year before as follows:—

1885	-	-	-	-	- 624
1886	-	-	-	-	- 589
1887	-	-	-	-	- 597

12. The total number of deaths among Europeans is six, of which only two occurred among the European residents, and four were landed from the steamers visiting this port. They were as follows:—

From internal hœmorrhage, the result of old-standing liver disease (resident in Freetown).

A case of constitutional syphilis (resident in Sherbro).

Killed instantaneously in port by the snapping of a cable on board a mail steamer.

From severe gunshot injuries received while firing a cannon in port on board a mail steamer.

A case of remittent fever, died on board the steamer in port and buried on shore.

A case of pneumonia, died on board the steamer in port and buried on shore.

13. The large number of deaths among the natives in Freetown during 1887 is surprising, the total number registered, inclusive of the Colonial Hospital (39) and the Freetown Gaol (6), being 591, of which only 83 were certified and 508 were uncertified. This great mortality being due to the baneful effects of so-called "country medicine" and the persistent practice of the majority of the people in seeking the advice of ignorant "country doctors" and of other unqualified persons who trifle with the use of drugs.

14. The introduction of a Medical Registration Act into the Colony similar to those in other Colonies is very desirable to enable inexperienced persons requiring medical aid to distinguish the qualified practitioner from the unqualified, and, as a safeguard to the public, there should be an Ordinance to regulate the sale of drugs and poisons in this Settlement, which should make it unlawful for any person to sell or keep open shop for retailing, dispensing, or compounding, any drug or poison, unless such person has first obtained a license under the provisions of the Ordinance, such license being obtained by examination conducted by the Colonial Surgeon and a board of medical officers, to test

the applicant's knowledge of drugs and poisons, his ability to prepare and make up prescriptions and medicines, and his fitness to be entrusted with the sale of drugs and poisons.

15. The general sanitary condition of the Settlement is still unsatisfactory in Freetown where many insanitary evils exist. Some minor points have been attended to, but there is still room for very general improvement. The simple remedial measures mentioned in my report for 1885 if adopted, would, I am sure, render Freetown a comparatively healthy place of residence.

16. To recapitulate briefly:—

A. Open gutters or water tables on the sides of the streets to carry off storm, bath, and soap water. Those at present in some streets want repair.
B. The adoption of the earth system where practicable.
C. The closing of privies in crowded parts and against neighbouring houses, and the erection of public earth-closets in suitable localities.
D. The ventilation of the present privies.
E. The reduction in size of the present pit to a water-tight one of 3 feet by 18 inches deep and 2 feet wide, so as to allow of frequent emptying.
F. The rigid prohibition of burying their contents in yards of dwellings.
G. The total abolition of cesspools.
H. The closing of all wells in the close vicinity of cess pits or pools.
I. The regular cleansing of other wells.
K. The establishment of a proper dunghill leeward of the town, where all refuse matter should be deposited and regularly burnt.

17. In regard to these suggestions A and B would require the assistance of the Government (an estimate has been prepared and submitted by the Surveyor's Department) and the rest could be carried out by householders under a compulsory Ordinance to be passed for the purpose.

18. The returns* of the several medical institutions of the Settlement attached to this Report, which have been supplied by the Assistant Colonial Surgeons, Drs. Jarrett and Renner, exhibit the working of the department in a favourable light, and are worthy of attention.

A. Colonial Hospital, Freetown.
Gaol Hospital, Freetown.
B. Lunatic Asylum, Kissy.
Male Incurable Hospital, Kissy.
Female Incurable Hospital, Kissy.
Small-pox Hospital, Kissy.
C. Public Hospital, Sherbro.
Small-pox Hospital, Sherbro.
D. District Dispensaries.

* Not printed.

SIERRA LEONE.

A. FREETOWN HOSPITALS.

Colonial Hospital.

19. The sanitary condition of the Colonial Hospital has been good, and the conduct generally of the staff has been satisfactory.

20. The Resident Dispenser was permitted to resign his appointment, and the indenture of a hospital apprentice was cancelled for unsatisfactory conduct.

21. Mr. N. E. Browne, keeper of the Lunatic Asylum, was appointed Resident Dispenser in April last, and Mr. Davies succeeded to the vacant apprenticeship.

22. The Colonial Hospital is in want of general repairs and painting, and the equipment from want of funds is not very complete.

23. The volunteer nurse continues her attendance, and has been found useful in nursing serious cases among Europeans.

24. The admissions this year are 74 patients less, as compared with the previous year. The admissions for financial reasons having been restricted to serious cases, accidents, and paying patients.

25. A total number of 425 patients, 317 males and 108 females, were under treatment during the year. Of these 276 were cured, 48 relieved, 34 not relieved, 39 died, and 28 remained in hospital on the 31st December 1887.

26. The average stay in days of patients discharged was, males 26·8, females 35·3, and of those remaining in hospital at the end of the year was, males 25·6, females 49·6.

27. The number of deaths this year is 39, and the death rate 9·1. Comparing this with the previous year the result is as follows:—

	No. of Patients treated.	No. of Deaths.	Death rate.
1886 - - -	501	85	16·9
1887 - - -	425	39	9·1

This present death rate is satisfactory when it is considered that many patients were admitted in a moribund condition and that 15 cases died within 72 hours after admission.

The average stay in days of those who died being, males 16·8, females 10·3.

28. Fifteen cases were sent into hospital by the sanitary and police authorities as found destitute and dying in the streets and neighbouring "bush," and were afterwards transferred to the Incurable Hospitals at Kissy.

29. One hundred and ten operations were performed; of these 33 were serious, and attended with risk, and three patients died, the death rate after operation being 9·0 per cent. The three deaths were as follows:—

One case from tetanus supervening, extensive injury of both hands, which required amputation.

One case from exhaustion, arising from a sloughing ulcer in a debilitated subject.

One case of herniotomy. The patient had peritonitis previous to operation.

Gaol Hospital.

30. This institution hardly deserves the name of a hospital, consisting as it does of one room for males and one room for females on the ground floor. It, however, for the want of a better one, serves the purpose for which it is intended.

31. The general sanitary state of the prison has been fairly good during the year and the health of the prisoners has been remarkably good. The prison has maintained its usual clean and orderly condition.

32. 80 prisoners, 70 males and 10 females, were treated in the hospitals during the year, of which only 6 males died, as follows:—

2 from pneumonia.
1 „ diarrhoea.
1 „ hepatitis.
1 „ sloughing ulcer and exhaustion.
1 „ general debility.

33. The death-rate being as follows:—

7·5 on the total number admitted into hospital, 80.
0·87 on the total number sick in prison in 1887, 689.
0·59 on the total number of prisoners confined in the gaol during the year, 1,010.

34. The number of deaths as compared with the two previous years being:—

1885	-	-	- 15
1886	-	-	- 17
1887	-	-	- 6

35. The low death-rate this year is undoubtedly due to the recommendations which were introduced during the latter part of the previous year.

A. An additional prison regulation by which new prisoners after one or two months of confinement are permitted to work outside the prison walls.

B. The increase of beef to 3 oz., and the addition of half a lime daily and of nitrogenous principle thrice weekly (2 oz. of split peas or beans in soup) to the prison diet scale with a diminution of the starchy constituents (rice and foofoo).

SIERRA LEONE.

c. Shot drill and breaking stones in the shade.
d. The establishment of ventilating openings, 12 × 8 in., immediately under the ceiling of the outer walls of the hospital.

36. These alterations have added much to the improvement in health of the prisoners, inasmuch as there was no case of anæmia and dropsy or so-called beri-beri, which formed the subject of an inquiry in 1884, during the year.

37. Six hundred and eighty-nine prisoners were attended to as out patients, and a grand daily total of 9,214 were seen during the year by the medical officer.

38. Many other suggestions remain to be carried out for the further improvement of the prison, but in consequence of the financial condition of the Colony they cannot at present be attempted; but I venture to hope that, as this improves, the Colony may ultimately afford a new prison altogether.

B. KISSY HOSPITALS.

39. These Institutions are sadly in want of repair, and if something is not shortly done the cost of repairing them will be great. The lunatic asylum doors and windows are not secure, and in order to keep the patients in safe custody at night the labourers have to sit up watching them in spells of four hours. New single cells on an improved plan are much needed.

Tne male and female incurable and the small-pox hospitals want general repairs and painting.

40. A proper water supply, especially to the small-pox hospital, either by a well close by or conveyed in water pipes from the river a little above the Asylum, would be of great advantage to the working of these institutions.

Lunatic Asylum.

41. Eighty-six patients were treated during the year, 20 were admitted,4 were discharged cured, 7 lunatics died, and 75 remained at the end of the year. Of the deaths 6 cases were from chronic mania, 1 from subacute mania, the death-rate being 8·01.

42. The patients have been well looked after and no complaints of any kind have been reported.

43. The patients appear on the whole contented, and are amused by the fife and drum, by plaiting straw hats and carrying water from the river near by, and by mending the clothing. They are allowed to bathe twice a week in the stream, and enjoy this luxury immensely.

44. Only one male patient absconded, but he was soon captured and brought back to the asylum.

Male Incurable Hospital.

45. One hundred and thirteen males were treated and provided for during the year, of which 14 were discharged cured, 21 relieved, 5 not relieved, 32 died, and 41 remained at the close o the year.

46. The 32 deaths were as follows :—

2	from	constitutional syphilis.
9	„	debility.
1	„	leprosy.
13	„	chronic ulceration.
3	„	paralysis.
4	„	other causes.
32		

Female Incurable Hospital.

47. Fifty-nine females were cared for in 1887, of which 12 were discharged cured, 4 relieved, 1 not relieved, 15 died, and 27 remained in the hospital on the 31st December 1887.

48. Of the 15 deaths :—

2	from	constitutional syphilis.
7	„	debility.
3	„	ulcer and exhaustion.
1	„	paralysis.
1	„	leprosy.
1	„	dropsy.
15		

49. The inmates of the incurable hospitals are chiefly brought from Freetown, where they are found by the police and sanitary authorities lying about the streets in a destitute and dying condition.

Small-pox Hospital.

50. Nineteen cases of small-pox occurred during the year. Four patients died and none remained in hospital at the termination of the year.

51. The death-rate was 21·0 per cent.

52. The usual precautions were observed in preventing the spread of the disease. The largest number of cases occurred among the Timmanee tribe, and were all imported from the interior.

C. SHERBRO HOSPITALS.

53. The public hospital, Sherbro, is also out of repair. It requires a new roof, and, together with the out offices, general repairs and painting.

SIERRA LEONE.

The want of a proper hospital for the treatment of females is much felt. At present they are treated in the ward of the male hospital and are separated from the males by a thin cloth petition.

A new and properly constructed small-pox hospital is also wanted, as the one made of mud and thatch at Victoria has crumbled and fallen to pieces.

54. On this subject Dr. Jarrett writes:—

"There are immense possibilities by the expenditure of a small amount of money of making the hospitals of great use and benefit to the natives of this and surrounding places, from the fact that nearly one third if not more of the extern patients seen are natives of the district."

55. The public health of Sherbro has been fairly good during the past year, and though the sanitary condition is not satisfactory there has been little sickness; the death rate, so far as the registrar's returns show, being small.

Public Hospital.

56. Seventy-five persons were treated in the public hospital at Bonthe, of which 43 were cured, 14 relieved, 3 not relieved, 12 died, and 3 remained in hospital on the 31st December 1887.

57. The death-rate being 16 per cent.

Small-pox Hospital.

58. There were only six cases of small-pox treated in the hut used for the purposes of a hospital. There were no deaths.

DISTRICT DISPENSARIES.

59. The amount of work performed at the eight district dispensaries show that their usefulness is undiminished. The returns* attached to this Report show their working in detail as follows:—

1. Freetown - - - -	5,759
2. Kissy - - - - -	1,869
3. Sherbro - - - -	2,454
4. Regent - - - -	616
5. Hastings - - - -	678
6. Waterloo - - - -	1,315
7. York - - - - -	954
8. Kent - - - - -	427
	14,072

VACCINATION RETURN.

60. General vaccination was not performed this year in the Settlement. In Freetown and Kissy it was only carried out on unprotected persons, children, and infants, residing in houses where cases of small-pox had been discovered.

* Not printed.

METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS.

61. The rainfall as observed and recorded in the Colonial hospital is herewith attached.

62. The barometer has not been replaced and there is no one in the department who can supply reliable readings of the other instruments.

63. The above report and returns are respectfully submitted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. PALMER ROSS, M.D.EDIN., F.R.C.S.E.,
Colonial Surgeon.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Sierra Leone.

I., II., III., *and* IV. *not printed.*

V.—METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS.

Returns of Rainfall at the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, during the year 1887.

Months.	Quantity in Inches.
January	1·07
February	0·00
March	4·13
April	8·00
May	8·30
June	18·46
July	22·94
August	26·05
September	38·01
October	19·40
November	7·63
December	0·75
Total	154·74

(Signed) D. PALMER ROSS, M.D. EDIN., F.R.C.S.
Colonial Surgeon.

April 17, 1888.

SIERRA LEONE.

LORD KNUTSFORD to Sir S. ROWE.

SIR, Downing Street, August 10, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 2nd of June transmitting the Annual Medical Report for the year 1887.

I regret that the financial position of the Colony is such that many of the improvements suggested by the Colonial Surgeon must be postponed; but with regard to the points enumerated in the 16th paragraph of his report, I should be glad to learn whether steps cannot be taken, either under the Sanitary Ordinances of 1879 and 1884 or by means of fresh legislation, to compel the owners or occupiers of houses to keep them in a sanitary condition.

Dr. Ross expresses the opinion that Freetown might be made a comparatively healthy place of residence if the simple remedial measures suggested by him were carried out: and it appears to me that a town of 21,000 inhabitants would hardly be healthy, even in a temperate climate, with such arrangements as to cess-pools, &c. as exist in Freetown.

I have, &c.

Sir S. Rowe. (Signed) KNUTSFORD.

LONDON: Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

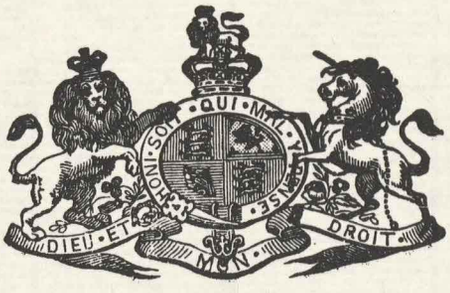
HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 6.

TOBAGO.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
May 1888.



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1888.

[C.—5249.—3.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Price.
		d.
1	Virgin Islands - - -	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues -	2
3	Gambia - - - -	1
4	Victoria - - - -	2½
5	New Zealand - - -	5

No. 6.

TOBAGO.

[For reference to previous Reports, *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4842]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4404]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3388].]

Governor W. J. SENDALL to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Grenada, March 27, 1888.

FORWARDED,

(Signed) WALTER J. SENDALL.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c.

SIR, Government Office, March 16, 1888.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the past year, together with the usual Report thereon.

I have, &c.

His Excellency (Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN.
Governor Sendall, C.M.G.
&c. &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1887.

Finance.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to 9,386*l.* 18*s.* 11½*d.*, and the expenditure to 6,994*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.*, showing a saving of nearly 2,400*l.*, and reducing the deficit from 3,000*l.* to the sum of 562*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.*

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1883 - - - -	14,115	14,223
1884 - - - -	11,370	13,481
1885 - - - -	10,825	12,031
1886 - - - -	8,813	9,529
1887 - - - -	9,386	6,994

o 54014. Wt, 18427.

TOBAGO.

From the foregoing comparative table it will be observed that the revenue in 1887 was larger than in the previous year, and the expenditure markedly smaller than it has ever been before.

Public Works.

Notwithstanding the reduced circumstances of the Colony, the expenditure on Public Works was 497*l.* 9*s.* 11½*d.*, and, as will be seen from the following table, every public building had something done to it.

Expenditure on Public Works, 1887.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Government House - -	183	18	2
Whitehall - - -	21	5	0
Gaol - - - -	20	7	11
Hospital - - - -	13	17	11
Roxborough Court House -	7	9	7
Bridges, Spey Side, Trois Rivierès Roxborough - - -	21	17	9
Crane, repairs to - -	9	6	4
Roads, general repairs to - -	125	18	1½
Buildings, general repairs to -	61	6	0
Barracks, repairs to - -	5	0	0
Mules and cart - - -	27	3	2
	£497	9	11½

A large sum of money is required to put all the uildings in thorough order; but as 1,500*l.* is provided in 1888 for public works it is hoped that in a few years much will be done in this direction that has long been wanted.

The main roads, about 100 miles in all, are, generally speaking, in good order for riding and for carts. No carriages are now kept, but the roads could be easily made driving roads if improved circumstances required it.

Legislation.

An Ordinance providing for the sale of Crown lands in small parcels was the only law of any importance passed during the year, as all legislation was deferred until the completion of the union with Trinidad is effected.

Councils.

Doctor John Patrick Tulloch, Colonial Surgeon, was appointed an official member of the Legislative Council in May.

Civil Establishment.

Doctor R. M. Clark died in the month of January, and the vacancy in the Medical Service was filled up by the appointment of Doctor E. G. Blanc.

Education.

The grant in aid was maintained at 500*l.*, and I append the following comparative table of the number of schools and scholars, and the religious denominations, amongst which the Government grant was proportionately divided.

Denomination.	1885.			1886.			1887.		
	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars.	Government Grant.
			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Anglican -	9	726	334 8 0	9	795	226 4 6	9	824	217 4 0
Moravian -	6	587	198 18 0	6	456	131 18 0	5	498	126 18 0
Wesleyan -	6	579	212 17 0	6	562	141 17 6	6	613	135 18 0
Total -	21	1,892	745 13 0	21	1,813	500 0 0	20	1,935	*480 0 0

* 20*l.* for gratuities.

Imports and Exports.

The export trade revived considerably during the year, and the crop of sugar went nearly up to the normal yield of, say, 3,000 hogsheads instead of the unprecedented small export of 811 hogsheads in the previous year.

This great improvement of course told on all trade, and as the minor exports of pigs, goats, sheep, and fowls to Trinidad still kept up, the total value of the exports was 33,000*l.*, compared with 18,900*l.* in 1886.

The exportation of horses and cattle will not be continued if the recent improvement in the value of sugar is maintained, for there will be no necessity for the peasantry to dispose of their stock.

During the past three years I find that 1,625 head of cattle and 765 horses, representing in value 13,000*l.*, have been sent away, which shows a wealth amongst the peasantry of which no one had any idea.

TOBAGO.

I append a table which exhibits how this trade began simultaneously with the decline in the value of sugar in 1885.

Year.	Horned Cattle.	Cocoa.	Cocoanuts.	Fowls.	Goats.	Hides.	Horses.	Lime Juice.	Logwood.	Molasses.	Pigs.	Rum.	Sheep.	Sugar.	Wood, Fuel.
	Heads.	Bags.	No.	Dozens.	No.	No.	No.	Puns.	Tons.	Puns.	No.	Puns.	No.	Cwts.	Cords.
1883 -	131	40	720,609	148	273	192	29	14	13	887	72	100	14	50,853	500
1884 -	98	75	850,584	95	253	223	23	14	3	5,108	43	276	1	75,394	552
1885 -	377	59	567,979	184	766	266	181	7	8	788	298	220	33	51,946	565
1886 -	898	106	302,794	322	1,571	200	209	9	16	219	586	45	229	16,400	573
1887 -	350	113	654,627	769	1,961	154	205	4	—	851	1235	144	209	47,043	375
Total -	1,854	393	3,096,593	1,518	4,824	1,035	647	48	40	3,853	2234	785	486	241,636	2,565
Average -	371	79	619,319	304	965	207	129	10	8	771	447	157	97	48,327	513

Shipping.

The only steamers that visit this Island regularly are the royal mail every four weeks and a direct line steamer from London about every three weeks.

The food supply, American breadstuffs, fish, lumber, oil, &c., are all brought from Barbados in three small schooners each about 40 tons burthen and 40 years old. A steamer from New York affording regular communication is greatly needed, but as the principal importers own these small vessels they will not encourage such a change, as they will lose the profit of the freight and the droghering of sugars from the out-bays that they do between the trips to Barbados. The result is that all the refuse flour and lumber of Barbados finds it way to Tobago, is retailed at high prices, and frequently the stock of food in the Island fails because these three old sailing vessels make long passages and leave at uncertain dates.

Agriculture.

There are no means of ascertaining the quantity of land in cultivation, but I feel sure the cacao trees have increased considerably in number, and other industries are being started by those who have recently bought property in the Island.

Every tropical product will grow if it is planted and cared for, and the present time presents very favourable opportunities for small capitalists who may wish to invest in land.

Prison.

The health of the prisoners was very good during the past year and always has been so in the present gaol, which was formerly the military hospital.

The number of commitments and daily average number in prison were both far below the two previous years, and I am satisfied that the discipline of the gaol is well maintained.

The gross cost of each prisoner per diem was within a fraction of 1*s.*

Criminal.

The statistics given in the following table serve to show how little crime there is in the Island :—

——	1885.	1886.	1887.	Total.	Average.
Number of cases before the magistrates -	909	856	753	2,518	839
Number of Summary Convictions.					
1. Offences against the person - -	150	80	61	291	97
2. Prædial larceny - - - -	42	36	10	88	29
3. Other offences against property - -	20	44	19	83	17
4. Other offences - - - - -	251	213	294	758	252
Number of Convictions in the Superior Courts.					
1. Offences against the person - -	2	5	3	10	3
2. Arson - - - - - -	2	1	—	3	1
3. Other offences against property - -	10	9	8	27	9
Number of Persons acquitted.					
1. In the inferior courts - - -	101	78	79	258	86
2. In the Superior Court - - -	6	3	1	10	3

The most serious offences during the year were horse and cattle stealing, a new crime in Tobago, encouraged by the export trade in live stock which has recently sprung up. The principal offenders were detected and the punishments inflicted seem to have stopped the spread of this crime.

Hospital.

The number of beds in the hospital had to be limited to 12, and this regulation prevented the institution from being used as an almshouse.

The daily average number of inmates was only 8 · 3, so that the hospital accommodation seems ample for the wants of the Colony.

What is required is an almshouse for the old and deserted poor, who now live by private charity.

TOBAGO.

Rainfall.

There is no regular Government meteorological station here, and the only weather observations that are taken of any sort are by a few gentlemen scattered about the Island.

As soon as the Island is annexed to Trinidad I hope that the Government will procure a good standard barometer to be kept in the Court House at Scarborough, and several rain gauges and thermometers. In the event of a hurricane approaching this Island there is no means of giving warning to the public, and although these calamities are very rare, yet it must always be remembered that they have occurred and may recur.

The rainfall during the year was below the average and did not fall in the usual months. The seasons may be said to have been irregular.

Savings Bank.

There is no savings bank in Tobago, and the peasantry invest their savings in stock, which system is not without its advantages over a deposit in a savings bank, which in Tobago will more help clerks and domestic servants and small tradesmen than the agricultural labourer.

Government House.

Government House is pleasantly situated 415 feet above the level of the sea, about $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Scarborough. It has large reception rooms, but not good bedroom accommodation, and is expensive to live in.

Repairs have been done to the roof, but the internal fittings and furniture require a considerable amount of money to be spent before the house can be called a comfortable residence.

The road to the house from town is a driving road, a little steep in one or two places, but everybody rides in Tobago, and the distance from town necessitates the keeping of at least three horses if the Administrator is a man with a family.

General Remarks.

In January the question of the union of this Island with Trinidad was brought before the Legislative Council by the Governor-in-Chief, and a resolution was adopted agreeing to such a step; since then every question has been deferred until the union is completed.

There is no doubt that the prospect of that union has attracted more attention to Tobago than it has received for many years, and the result has been that the year which opened with the gloomiest prospects ever experienced terminated with the most marvellous improvement in every direction.

The estates that had been in the West Indian Incumbered Estates Court for nearly three years were sold en bloc in the middle of the year to two gentlemen residing in the Island, and they have since then been selling the properties one after another to different purchasers coming from different Islands as resident proprietors.

This fortunate breaking up of the old monopoly and introduction of fresh blood and capital has brought a marvellous change to the Island, which is as fertile and healthy as any in the group.

There is plenty of Crown land well adapted for cocoa planting, and it is hoped that when the union with Trinidad is completed that other proprietors and settlers will come to Tobago, which has every prospect now of becoming a far more prosperous Island than it has ever been.

Land is cheap, and so is labour. Taxation is light and the necessaries of life (beef, and mutton, and bread) are cheaper than in most islands. The soil is fertile and the climate salubrious. What more can the moderate capitalist, who desires a quiet life in a genial climate, wish for?

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

16th March 1888.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 16.

TRINIDAD.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
July 1888.

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1888.

[C.—5249.—13.]

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No.	Colony.	Year.	Price.
			d.
1	Virgin Islands - -	1886	1
2	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues.	„	2
3	Gambia - - -	„	1
4	Victoria - - -	„	2½
5	New Zealand - -	„	5
6	Tobago - - -	1887	1
7	Gibraltar - - -	„	1
8	Gold Coast (Governor's visit to the Eastern Districts).	1888	1
9	Heligoland - -	1887	1
10	Natal - - -	„	1
11	Straits Settlements -	„	1½
12	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports).	—	1*s.* 4*d.*
13	Jamaica and Turks Islands -	1887	2½
14	Newfoundland - -	1886	1
15	Grenada - - -	1887	1½

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[For previous Reports *see* 1886 [C.—5239]; 1885 [C.—4904]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4404]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3388].]

Governor Sir W. ROBINSON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

St. Anne's, Trinidad,
April 16, 1888.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1887, and to submit an abstract of its contents with a few remarks thereon :—

Taxes and Duties.

The following alterations in the Customs tariff were effected during the year. The duties payable on the importation of live stock, which formerly were levied at the following rates, viz. :—

	Each.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
On asses - - - -	0	3	0
„ oxen, bulls, and cows - -	0	3	0
„ horses, mares, geldings, colts, and foals - - - -	2	2	6
„ mules - - - -	1	2	6

were repealed, and live stock of all kinds is now admitted free of duty.

The words "machinery of every description to be driven by "steam, hydraulic, electric, or wind power, and all parts of such "machinery, also all steam engines and any part of a steam engine, "and engine-boilers and parts thereof, whether the said machinery, "engines, or engine-boilers, or parts thereof, are imported for use in "the Colony or for the use of steamers trading to or with the "Colony or in transit," were substituted for "machinery for the manufacture of produce" in the list of exemptions contained in the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1885. With these exceptions the tariff remained unaltered.

The only other change in the sources of revenue was effected by Ordinance No. 24 of 1886, "for raising funds in aid of immigration for 1887," which fixed the export duties leviable on sugar at 4*s.* 6*d.* instead of 4*s.* per hogshead, and prescribed a corresponding increase in the export duties on molasses, rum, cocoa, and coffee.

Much discussion has lately taken place with regard to these export duties, the proceeds of which are applicable to immigration and to no other purpose whatever. It has been contended

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that one section of the planting community, viz., the proprietors of cocoa estates, are required to contribute unduly to the fund, inasmuch as they do not employ as many indentured coolies as do the sugar planters. They seem, however, to overlook the fact that in addition to the indenture fee, which of course is only paid by the estates receiving allotments of immigrants, there are other direct expenses which have to be borne by the employers of indentured labour from which they are exempt. In the first place, the law fixes a minimum wage, and provides at the same time that "every indentured immigrant employed at piece work shall be "paid at the same rate per task as is paid to unindentured "labourers resident on the same plantation for the like task" (s.12, Ord. 9, 1875). Then, again, a penalty is prescribed for not providing work; the hours of labour are limited; house and hospital accommodation and medical attendance have to be provided, and other things have to be done which give trouble and involve expense.

It must also be borne in mind that cocoa planters, equally with sugar planters, are at liberty to employ indentured coolies, and if they do not do so it is either because they are not prepared to comply with the regulations prescribed by law, or they prefer to avail themselves of the services of these people after they have served their term of indenture on sugar plantations. The coolie is then free to work where he pleases; he has become acclimatized, and is altogether a more serviceable and valuable labourer than when first introduced. The cocoa planter can then afford to pay him a higher rate of wages, and, tempted by this inducement and the prospect of lighter work, his migration to the cocoa plantation is natural. In these circumstances it is only fair that some portion of the cost of his introduction should be borne by the cocoa industry, whether indentured labourers be employed in that cultivation or not.

In the foregoing remarks the matter has been dealt with from the planters' point of view, without any consideration as to the real incidence of the tax; whether it may not properly be considered as an additional rentcharge levied at the most convenient time for the landowner or occupier, *i.e.*, when he has reaped and is about to sell his crop, or whether the tax is not really paid by the consumer and not by the producer.

On the 3rd August 1886 I recommended to the Trade and Taxes Commission, and through it to the Legislative Council, the abolition of export duty on sugar, cocoa, and rum, and I have no doubt that that abolition will ultimately be effected.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The receipts of 1887 amounted to 456,167*l.* 2*s.* 9½*d.* and the payments to 424,954*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*, showing a balance in favour of the Colony on the financial transactions of the year of 31,212*l.* 13*s.* 10½*d.*

The estimates of revenue were in almost every case exceeded. Thus Customs show a total of 177,935*l.* against an estmate of 157,700*l.*:—

	£		£
Rum duty - -	98,754	against	92,000
Licenses - - -	24,768	„	20,600
Land and house tax -	30,923	„	30,700
Fines and fees of court -	7,510	„	7,000
Fees of office - -	3,910	„	3,500
Legacy duty - -	1,397	„	500

The above comprise the principal items of taxation.

The other sources of revenue also for the most part show an increase as exhibited in the following table:—

——	1886.	1887.
	£	£
Land sales - - - - -	18,477	19,034
Postage - - - - -	5,832	6,717
Reimbursements in aid - - - -	10,947	20,444
Interest - - - - -	3,871	3,807
Borough Council, San Fernando - -	750	1,750
Railway traffic receipts - - -	49,813	54,268
Port-of-Spain waterworks - - -	1,691	1,783

Considering the continued depression in the sugar industry, and the reduction of taxation, of which mention has before been made, in the abolition of the import duties on live stock and on machinery other than that used for the manufacture of produce, the figures above quoted indicate an elasticity in the revenue and a soundness in the general financial condition of the Colony, arising doubtless from an appropriateness in the present system of taxation, which I conceive it would be impolitic if not imprudent to disturb.

The expenditure, including the planters' contribution to the immigration fund, amounting to 44,582*l.*, exceeded that of 1886 by 26,033*l.* The establishment charges show a slight augmentation, viz., 144,463*l.* as against 143,686*l.* Excesses also occur in the following services:—

——	1886.	1887.
	£	£
Administration of justice - - -	2,491	2,598
Hospitals - - - - -	33,140	33,298
Transport - - - - -	151	299

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
Miscellaneous services - - -	9,510	9,965
Survey of lands - - - -	4,139	4,683
Railway working expenses - - -	25,116	26,634
Government dairy - - - -	836	1,419
Public works - - - -	56,389	68,181
Ward unions - - - -	6,940	7,473
Transport train - - - -	326	809
Immigration (including contribution of planters - - - - -	41,276	59,685

On the other hand, the charges under the following heads have been diminished:—

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
Pensions, &c. - - -	12,083	9,320
Revenue services - - -	211	130
Registration - - - -	544	519
Education - - -	16,499	14,859
Police - - - - -	6,115	5,920
Gaols - - - - -	5,303	4,027
Rent - - - -	2,477	2,304
Conveyance of mails - - -	3,461	3,415
Postage - - - -	6,371	5,101
Interest - - - -	3,050	3,007
Drawback and refund of duties - -	8,546	6,391
Redemption of debentures - -	500	400
Stationery - - - - -	1,933	1,790

When it is borne in mind that with the exception of the rates levied in the boroughs of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando, which comprise a house tax of 5 per cent. in the former and 7½ per cent. in the latter place on the annual rent or value of the properties situate in the boroughs, water rates, which in 1887 yielded in Port-of-Spain 5,152*l.* and in San Fernando 1,209*l.*, and wharf dues in

San Fernando amounting to 2,112*l.*, with a few market tolls, there are no local taxes whatever, no poor rates, no education or church rates, no highway or police charges, but that the indigent sick are maintained, roads are constructed and kept up, a large police force is supported, schools are provided, and the clergy is endowed, and that all these charges are provided for out of the general taxation of the Colony, it will, I think, be admitted that as compared with other places where there is a more settled population, and whose requirements in the matter of roads are infinitely less, the resident in Trinidad, be he rich or poor, is very lightly taxed.

Public Debt.

The total debt amounts to 562,440*l.*, not much in excess of a year's revenue.

The greater part of this liability was incurred for the construction of railways, the balance due on that account being 551,340*l.* The debt forms a first charge upon the revenue, and the interest and sinking fund are provided for in the annual estimates.

In his report for 1887 the general superintendent states that the length of line open at the close of the year was 54¼ miles, that the receipts for passenger traffic of 1887 exceeded those of 1886 by 1,668*l.*, the number of passengers carried having increased by 29,541. The goods traffic also showed an increase in amount of 2,628*l.* and in quantity of 11,208 tons. The total increase was 4,296*l.*, while the working expenses were only 2,631*l.* in excess of the previous year. The tariff, which before was admittedly too low, has been recently revised, and the present year's working will, it is expected, exhibit still better results. The receipts of 1887 yielded a per-centage on capital of 2·61, which ought to increase as the Colony becomes more settled and as population increases. The railway, therefore, which is at present a valuable asset, will in course of time not only become self-supporting, but, if properly managed, will doubtless show a profit applicable to a reduction of taxation. The interest payable on the outstanding debentures is 5 per cent. on 217,540*l.* and 4 per cent. on 333,800*l.*

The remainder of the public debt includes 12,000*l.* (of which 4,000*l.* on account of sinking fund are held by trustees) borrowed in 1883 at 5 per cent. for the extension of the Port-of-Spain waterworks, and 3,100*l.* balance of an amount of 15,000*l.*, guaranteed by the Government, which was expended in the construction of a tramroad at San Fernando.

Legislation.

The legislation of the year is embodied in 28 Ordinances. The titles of these, which for the most part sufficiently explain their object, are subjoined:—

No. 1.—For the more effectual collection of local taxes and assessments.

No. 2.—To amend the law concerning inquests as to death.

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No. 3.—To amend the law with regard to immigration.

No. 4.—To enable Raymond John Richard Warner, hereinafter called Raymond Warner, to light the town of Port-of-Spain and the suburbs thereof by means of electricity.

No. 5.—To repeal "The Contagious Diseases Ordinance, 1869."

No. 6.—For amending and consolidating the law with regard to the constitution of the Medical Board, the practice of medicine and surgery, and the selling of drugs.

No. 7.—For regulating the licensing of hucksters, porters, and carters plying within the limits of the borough of San Fernando.

No. 8.—Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance, 1886.

No. 9.—To amend "The Customs Duties Ordinance, 1885."

No. 10.—To amend "The Medical Ordinance, 1887."

No. 11.—To amend the law with respect to foreign postal parcels.

No. 12.—To amend the law with regard to immigration.

No. 13.—To regulate the hearing of criminal cases brought for trial before the Supreme Court at the sessions held in Port-of-Spain.

No. 14.—To repeal "The Larceny (Amendment) Ordinance, 1886," and to make provision in lieu thereof.

No. 15.—To amend the law relating to the duties of the Registrar-General and to the hours for the transaction of business in the General Register Office and the Office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

No. 16.—To supplement the provisions of "The Industrial Schools Ordinance, 1876."

No. 17.—To repeal the Ordinance No. 7 of 1864, intituled "An Ordinance to regulate the use of Weighing Machines known as Fairbank's Patent Weighing Machines."

No. 18.—To provide further protection against dogs.

No. 19.—To amend the Ordinance No. 5 of 1868, intituled "An Ordinance respecting the Summary Administration of Justice."

No. 20.—Appropriation Ordinance, 1888.

No. 21.—To render personation with intent to deprive any person of real estate or other property, felony.

No. 22.—To amend the law respecting assault and battery.

No. 23.—To amend the law relating to distresses for rent.

No. 24.—To further amend the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1885.

No. 25.—To transfer the jurisdiction, powers, and duties attached to the office of the Commissioner of the Petty Civil Court of Port-of-Spain to the Puisne Judges of Trinidad.

No. 26.—For raising funds in aid of immigration for the year 1888.

No. 27.—To further amend the Ordinance No. 5 of 1868, intituled "An Ordinance respecting the Summary Administration of Justice."

No. 28.—To amend "The San Fernando Building Ordinance, 1884."

Ordinance No. 3 authorises the allotment of immigrants to any estate for which there shall not be a duly certified hospital, if the

Governor is satisfied that adequate provision exists for their reception in cases of illness in a public hospital situate at a convenient distance, provided that the number of immigrants under indenture on any such estate shall not at any time exceed fifteen. This enactment is of considerable importance and benefit to the cocoa proprietary.

It is to be regretted that no steps have yet been taken under Ordinance No. 4 to light the town of Port-of-Spain by means of electricity. A concession for 21 years has been granted to Mr. Raymond Warner, and he is allowed three years from the commencement of the Ordinance (29th April 1887) in which to "erect "or lay down suitable and sufficient distributing mains for the "purpose of general supply throughout certain specified streets."

The Medical Ordinance (No. 10) reconstitutes on a broader basis the Medical Board established by Ordinance 5 of 1846, and introduces some necessary enactments which cannot fail to be useful with regard to dentists, druggists, dispensers, midwives, &c.

No. 16 provides that managers of private industrial schools, with the approval of the Governor, may by license permit children under detention to live with trustworthy and respectable persons.

Political Franchise.

There are at present two municipal corporations in the Island; one at Port-of-Spain, the other at San Fernando. Elections are held annually, a certain proportion of the members retiring by rotation. The returns show an increase in the number of registered electors at the last election in both towns as compared with 1886, and an increase in the number of voters in Port-of-Spain, but a decrease in San Fernando. The figures are:—

	Registered Electors.	Voters.
Port of Spain - - -	711	103
San Fernando - - -	140	56

While in the larger town only one-seventh of the electors exercised their voting privilege, in San Fernando more than one-third of those entitled to do so registered their votes. And although the population of Port-of-Spain may be taken to be seven or eight times that of San Fernando and the electors are in the proportion of five to one, the number of voters are in the proportion of less than two to one. This evinces a want of interest in municipal matters in the capital town which is to be regretted, for there are important matters connected with its sanitary and social condition generally which call loudly for improvement and amelioration. On the other hand this want of interest may result from an absence of sufficient powers in the Municipal Council,

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and it is my intention therefore to give them, when the opportunity occurs, such addition to these privileges as they may safely be entrusted with. A petition for the establishment of a municipal corporation at Arima has been received, and is now under the consideration of the Government, and a survey of the town for the purpose of defining its boundaries has been ordered.

A movement which culminated in the transmission of a petition to the Queen praying for an alteration in the constitution of the Island has resulted in the appointment of a Royal Commission to consider and report "what franchise or combination of franchises "would in their judgment constitute a reasonably large body of "electors qualified by knowledge and education to form an "intelligent judgment on public affairs and so ensure the fair "representation of all interests" in the Island, and also to consider and report the electoral districts into which the Island might conveniently be divided. This Commission is now sitting.

Councils and Assemblies.

The only change of a permanent character in the personnel of the Executive and Legislative Councils was occasioned by the death of Mr. John Scott Bushe, Colonial Secretary. His successor was Mr. Henry Fowler.

Mr. Eugene Cipriani acted as an unofficial member of the Legislative Council during the absence on leave of Mr. G. T. Fenwick.

Civil Establishment.

The most important change in the establishment was the appointment of Mr. Henry Fowler to succeed Mr. J. Scott Bushe as Colonial Secretary. Mr. Henry Court retired from the Bench on pension. His retirement evoked expressions of regret from the general public and was made the occasion of very eulogistic addresses from the members of the legal profession. Mr. John Cook was appointed Puisne Judge in his place and was sworn in on the 7th December. At the request of the Legislative Council, and in accordance with the wish of the community generally, the Secretary of State consented to fill up the post of second Puisne Judge, which it had been decided to abolish. Mr. Chas. F. Lumb was nominated to this office and arrived in the latter part of the year. Mr. W. Llewellyn Lewis succeeded the late Mr. R. D. Mayne as Stipendiary Justice for Port-of-Spain, and he was in turn succeeded as Registrar General and Registrar of the Supreme Court by Mr. C. H. Phillips. Mr. F. A. Ganteaume, Stipendiary Justice and Warden of Mayaro, retired after a long and meritorious service. Mr. H. D. Huggins, Clerk of the Peace at Port-of-Spain, now holds the appointment which was so worthily filled by Mr. Ganteaume. Mr. J. H. Hart was appointed Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens in succession to Mr. Prestoe. Some other changes of minor importance occurred which it is unnecessary to detail.

Pensions.

The total amount paid for pensions and gratuities in 1887 was 9,320*l.* 4*s.* 6½*d.* The expenditure in 1886 under this head, 12,083*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*

The following new pensions were granted:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
To Mr. F. A. Ganteaume, late Warden and Magistrate of Mayaro -	225	0	0
„ Mr. D. L. O'Connor, late Registrar in Bankruptcy - -	100	0	0
„ Mr. C. Elms, late landing waiter -	33	12	0
„ M. E. Harley, nurse, San Fernando Hospital - - -	9	9	7
„ Joseph Spencer, prison warder -	36	13	4

And the police superannuation allowances increased from 1,288*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.* to 1,459*l.* 19*s.* 6½*d.*

The list was relieved of the following charges:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Pension to late Mr. J. T. Bowen -	320	0	10
„ „ E. J. Allen - -	25	0	0
„ „ Rev. L. Reynaud -	68	15	0
„ „ Mr. C. W. Warner -	446	13	4
„ „ Mr. A. W. Anderson -	183	6	8

Education.

The total number of scholars on the rolls and in average attendance in the Government primary schools in 1887 was 6,277, of whom 3,632 were boys and 2,645 girls. In aided private schools the numbers were, boys, 3,667; girls, 3,632; total, 7,299. In other private schools, 60, viz., 41 boys and 19 girls; making a grand total of 13,636.

The figures for 1886 are: Government schools, boys, 2,298; girls, 1,629; total, 3,927. In assisted schools, 3,213 boys; 3,102 girls; total, 6,315.

These figures show an excess in favour of 1887 of 3,394, or more than 33 per cent.

The aggregate expenditure of these schools in 1887 amounted to 17,991*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, of which 969*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* was raised by voluntary contributions. The school fees collected amounted to 4,025*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* In addition to the above there were 15 coolie and estate schools partly aided by the Government. The attendance in these schools averaged 533, viz., 398 boys and 135 girls. The amount of the Government contribution was 250*l.*, voluntary contributions 327*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*, and school fees 24*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*; making a total revenue of 651*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* Great credit is due to the Canadian Presbyterian Missionary Society for their efforts to maintain these schools, and to the resident ministers for the lively interest

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they manifest in the work. It seems to me that the evangelization and education of these people and their children, who have rendered such good service to the Colony in developing its material resources, is a duty which the Government and their employers owe to them. It must sooner or later be more systematically undertaken than it has heretofore been, and I have no doubt whatever that the outlay which it will entail will amply repay its cost.

The education returns also includes the statistics relating to two orphan homes and industrial schools; the one for Protestants at Tacarigua, the other for Roman Catholics at Belmont, in the suburbs of Port-of-Spain. There were in the former at the close of the year 68 children, viz., 32 boys and 36 girls; and in the latter 67 boys and 68 girls, total 135. The Government contributes 10*l.* per annum for the maintenance of each child admitted, the cost of maintaining coolie children not committed under the Industrial Schools Ordinance being chargeable to the immigration fund.

I am very anxious to see reformatory schools established, and I am using my best endeavours to accomplish this end, with the co-operation of the Roman Catholic Archbishop and the Bishop of the Church of England. The success of these schools must depend mainly upon the support which they will receive from the clergy of the different denominations; and indeed, unless the clergy are willing to undertake their management, I doubt very much whether they will not fail in their object.

A reformatory under State management, from which the religious element is excluded, would lack perhaps the most essential principle of reformatory discipline, while it would be a costly matter to establish and maintain two or more denominational institutions.

There are two schools of secondary education in the Colony supported wholly or partially by the Government, viz., the Queen's Royal College and the College of the Immaculate Conception. The latter is a Roman Catholic institution affiliated to the Royal College. The number of students in the one was 64, and in the other 229. They both attend the same yearly examinations, which are conducted by the University of Cambridge, and compete for the Exhibitions, of which four, of the value of 150*l.* per annum each for three years, are offered by the Colonial Government.

Trade Statistics.

The value of the total imports is estimated at 1,918,670*l.*; the exports at 1,870,612*l.* The corresponding figures in the return for 1886 are, imports 2,503,514*l.*, exports, 2,509,140*l.* *Primâ facie* it would appear that the trade of the Colony has declined, but an analysis of the figures will show that such is not the case, and that the deficiency is much more than made up by the falling off in the value of the bullion (gold) received in transit from the Venezuelan mines. In 1886 the value of the bullion so imported is stated to be 852,324*l.*; in 1887, 171,905*l.*, showing a difference of 680,419*l.*

Deducting the value of the Venezuelan gold from the imports of the two years, the following is the result :—

	£
Imports of 1886 - - -	1,651,190
Do. 1887 - - -	1,746,765
Difference in favour of 1887 -	95,575

or an increase of nearly 6 per cent. Continuing an examination of the import return, and comparing the figures with those of 1886, it is found that the goods obtained from the United Kingdom exceeded in value those imported in the previous year by 85,011*l.*, the totals being 751,510*l.* as against 666,499*l.* The following are some of the goods liable to duty which show an increase :—

	Total Value.	Increase.
	£	£
Textile manufactures - - -	231,474	15,338
Soap - - - - - -	16,946	2,317
Corn of all kinds, including oats - -	6,333	1,754
Tea - - - - - -	3,034	640
Rice - - - - - -	27,221	20,484
Spirits other than rum, brandy, and gin -	5,154	488
Wines in wood, under 22 per cent. - -	3,538	2,627
Do. 32 do. - -	1,069	586
Oil, coconut - - - - -	4,859	273
Oil, other than kerosine and olive - -	4,360	953
Medicines - - - - -	5,913	1,602

Of goods liable to duty warehoused for exportation only and transhipped an increase is shown under the following heads :—

Manufactured goods, unenumerated :—

The value of the 1886 importation is estimated at 4,304*l.*, that of 1887 at 8,672*l.*

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
Hardware - - - - -	11,424	13,818
Machinery - - - - -		2,188
Malt liquor in wood - - - -	96	931
Textile manufactures - - -	31,954	60,991

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In the case of goods imported from the United Kingdom which are admitted free of duty increases occur in the items:—

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
Books	2,987	3,384
Coal	12,586	17,499
Fish of all kinds	2,107	2,969
Patent fuel	13,431	18,460
Machinery	20,773	31,674
Meats of all kinds	4,994	5,064
Vegetable products	8,761	14,474

The importation of specie from the United Kingdom was in—

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
Gold	32,309	3,000
Copper	340	300

The value of the imports from certain foreign countries in the two years is shown below:—

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
France	105,371	101,386
Germany	25,932	26,878
Spain and her Colonies, except those in the West Indies	9,481	19,151
Portugal and her Colonies	3,622	1,387
Holland	1,107	2,542
United States of America	351,951	360,537
French West Indies	1,358	7,833
Spanish West Indies	6,897	6,776
South America, except Venezuela	5,030	3,000
Venezuela	1,053,327	359,918

The imports from Venezuela include, besides the gold already mentioned of the value of 171,905*l.*, a small quantity of silver bullion amounting to 710*l.*, and the following specie: gold, 9,577*l.*; silver, 8,698*l.*; making a total of 190,890*l.* The aggregate importation of bullion and specie from Venezuela in 1886 amounted to 874,053*l.*, made up as follows:—

	£
Bullion—Gold - - - -	852,324
Specie do. - - -	21,250
Do. Silver - - -	479

Deducting the amount of the bullion and specie from the gross imports of both years, the following result is obtained:—

	£
1886 - - - - -	179,274
1887 - - - - -	169,028
Leaving a balance of -	10,246

in favour of the former year. The exports to Venezuela in 1886 and 1887 amounted 168,585*l.* and 141,863*l.*, showing a falling off of 26,722*l.*

I have thought it necessary to take special notice of the Venezuelan trade for the purpose of showing how the hostile policy pursued by the Republic towards England and her Colonies affects prejudicially the commerce of this Colony.

The total exports amounted to 1,870,612*l.*, those of 1886 to 2,509,140*l.*; a decrease of 638,528*l.* is thus exhibited. Excluding the value of the bullion exported from the totals of both years, viz., 852,492*l.* in 1886 and 170,915*l.* in 1887, the exports of the latter year will then be found to exceed the exports of 1886 by 43,049*l.* Deducting also the value of the specie exported, which amounted in 1886 to 96,312*l.* and in 1887 to 45,428*l.*, the balance in favour of 1887 will be still further increased, the total excess being 93,933*l.* The gross exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 748,551*l.*, as against 949,622*l.* in 1886:—

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
To British Colonies - - - -	54,809	44,796
To foreign countries - - -	1,504,709	1,077,265

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The principal foreign countries to which goods are exported and the value of the exports thereto in 1886 and 1887 are appended :—

	1886.	1887.
	£	£
France - - - - -	606,001	136,191
Germany - - - - -	16,807	29,467
Spain, including Spanish Colonies not in the West Indies.	14,773	13,746
Portugal and Colonies - - -	4,022	1,082
Holland - - - - -	2,411	825
United States - - - -	634,368	722,813
French West Indies - - - -	50,087	25,550
South America - - - -	4,281	3,560
Venezuela - - - - -	168,585	141,863

Of the staple products of the Colony, sugar and cocoa, the exports were as follows :—

	1886.		1887.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Sugar - - -	48,448	546,196	66,875	800,595
	lbs.		lbs.	
Cocoa - - -	17,913,037	585,795	11,927,067	354,420

showing a very considerable increase in sugar and a very large reduction in cocoa. The weather was favourable to the one and disastrous to the other.

The other principal items of exportation of Island produce or manufacture were :—

	1886.		1887.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Asphalt, epurée - -	5,416	10,833	8,026	16,054
Do. raw - -	30,255	30,255	35,072	35,072
	Galls.		Galls.	
Bitters - - -	35,355	35,355	35,143	35,143
Cocoanuts - -	9,013,200	30,396	7,365,295	27,102
Molasses - - -	2,220,288	47,235	2,542,225	56,155
Rum - - -	16,181	1,415	35,571	3,339

Shipping.

From the return of shipping it will be seen that 2,089 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 140,825 tons, entered at the several ports of the Colony during the year. Of these, 685 were British and 1,404 foreign, their tonnage being 62,372 and 78,453 respectively. Excluding the Venezuelan traffic, which for the most part is carried on by means of open boats, the number arrived from Venezuela in 1887 being returned at 1,187 with a tonnage of 6,915 tons, the Intercolonial trade employed the largest number of vessels. 549 vessels, representing a tonnage of 29,999 tons, arrived from the British West Indies; 103, with an aggregate tonnage of 35,760 tons, from the United States; 58, of a capacity of 21,858 tons, from the United Kingdom; 55 (8,201 tons) from British North America, and 41 (5,253 tons) from the French West Indies.

The sailing vessels cleared numbered altogether 1,999, with an aggregate tonnage of 132,899 tons :—

	No.	Tonnage.
For Venezuela - - - -	1,110	6,914
„ British West Indies - - -	518	16,199
„ United States - - - -	129	54,435
„ United Kingdom - - -	58	14,885
„ French West Indies - - -	54	6,683
„ Spanish do. - - -	26	7,858
„ British North America - - -	37	4,901
„ Germany - - - -	17	4,601

The bulk of the trade with the United Kingdom is carried on by means of steamers. Of these the number entered was 95 (111,995 tons); the number cleared 21 (21,360 tons).

The principal entries and clearances from and to other places are as under :—

Entries.

	No.	Tonnage.
British West Indies - - - -	77	127,496
British Guiana - - - -	21	16,444
France - - - - -	12	30,001
Holland - - - - -	11	10,175
United States - - - -	37	36,042
French West Indies - - - -	14	20,874
Venezuela - - - - -	162	127,695

Clearances.

——	No.	Tonnage.
British West Indies - - - -	83	131,612
British Guiana - - - -	46	39,105
France - - - - -	8	15,737
United States - - - -	50	50,026
French West Indies - - - -	21	38,479
Dutch do. - - - -	10	10,550
Venezuela - - - - -	201	179,654

As regards the nationality of the sailing vessels entered and cleared, 685 of the former and 678 of the latter were British, the tonnage being 62,372 and 58,916 respectively. The next on the list were those of the United States, representing a tonnage of 34,315 entered and 32,582 cleared. The tonnage of 249 British steamers entered was 337,948 tons and of 252 cleared 337,484 tons.

Steam vessels of other nationality entered and cleared were as follows:—

——	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
French - - -	61	105,773	63	104,237
Dutch - - -	23	21,275	24	22,200
Venezuela - - -	82	23,258	85	24,179

As compared with the returns for 1886 it is found that the number of sailing vessels entered in 1887 exceeded those of the previous year by 277, or 1,462 tons; 186 more cleared, but there was a deficiency in the aggregate tonnage of 8,153 tons.

The tonnage of the steam vessels entered increased by 37,828 tons; of those cleared by 26,386 tons.

On the whole the trade and shipping returns of the year are very encouraging, giving evidence as they do of a vigour and vitality which augurs well for the future.

I hope soon to see direct steam communication opened up between Trinidad and the United States. When this takes place and a fruit trade is established, when the loading and discharge

of vessels are facilitated and expedited by the construction of a deep sea pier in the harbour of Port-of-Spain, as is contemplated by private enterprise, when all necessary repairs, &c. can be made to vessels trading here by means of the patent slip which is also about to be erected as a commercial speculation, when, too, the United States of America remodel their tariff so as to allow of the admission of West Indian sugar duty free or at a considerably reduced rate, an impetus will be given to trade which will, I believe, cause its rapid expansion on a safe and sound basis, and the commercial prosperity of the Island will be assured.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The total number of persons committed in1887 was 3,574, as against 4,363 in 1886. The prisoners are classified as under :—

——	1886.	1887.
Committed for debt - - - -	33	29
„ for safe custody or want of security	905	814
„ for purposes of penal imprisonment	3,425	2,731

Of those imprisoned in 1887 there were 2,936 men, 609 women, and 29 juveniles.

There were 23 escapes during the year, all of whom, with the exception of one, were recaptured.

The total annual cost of the prison department was 8,771*l.* 8*s.* 0½*d.*, and the estimated value of the prisoners' labour 6,319*l.* 13*s.* 10½*d.*

Whipping with cat-o'-nine tails was inflicted in 8 cases, and with a rod in 15 cases.

Eight deaths occurred during the year.

Criminal Statistics.

It is satisfactory to note that there has been a diminution in crime during the year.

The total number of offences reported was 16,512, against 16,690. Of these 4,099 were discharged for want of prosecution, and 3,383 were dismissed on the merits.

The number of summary convictions was 8,888, showing a falling off in the number of the previous year of 1,053.

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In the magistrates' courts the classes of offences in which convictions were obtained were as follows:—

Offences against the person - -	1,871
Malicious injuries to property - -	68
Prædial larceny - - - -	80
Offences against property - - -	879
„ Revenue, Health Acts, &c.	288
„ masters and servants, including Acts relating to indentured coolies -	1,924
Other offences - - - -	3,778

There were eight indictments for murder and two convictions.

154 cases were tried in the Supreme Court, with the following result:—

Judgment for the Crown - - -	85
„ prisoners - - -	38
Prisoners found insane - - -	2
Cases fell through for want of prosecution -	29

Two prisoners were found guilty of murder; 5 of manslaughter; 9 of rape; 1 of unnatural crimes; 32 of offences against the person; 3 of malicious injuries to property; 3 of robbery with violence; 19 of other offences against property; 11 of miscellaneous offences, making a total of 85, as against 107 in 1886.

General Remarks.

1887 has not been altogether an uneventful year in the annals of Trinidad.

Mr. J. Scott Bushe, C.M.G., who had held the office of Colonial Secretary for a period of 29 years, died in January. He had witnessed many silent revolutions in the course of his long public service, and could have borne testimony to the gradual but general improvement which has taken place in the condition of the Island and its inhabitants during the last quarter of a century. A handsome memorial window in the Council Chamber records the esteem in which he was held by his colleagues in the Council and in the Civil Service of the Island. His loss was soon followed by that of Mr. Charles W. Warner, C.B., who for many years had occupied the position of Attorney-General, from which he retired in 1871. There are few names better known throughout the West Indies than that of the late Mr. Charles Warner, and to no one perhaps does Trinidad owe a larger debt of gratitude. The immigration system, established by his powerful advocacy, has truly been regarded as the salvation of the Colony, and the deep interest he took in education has not been barren of results. He was a distinguished lawyer; a man of great and undoubted ability; a scholar of cultured taste, with a great love and capacity

for work. Of such a man Trinidad had just cause to be proud, and I deem it but right to take this opportunity of paying a passing tribute to his memory.

The Island has been visited by several persons of distinction, some of whom have recorded their impressions of the Colony and its people. Not the least distinguished among them was Mr. James Anthony Froude, who has given to the world a most readable book entitled "The English in the West Indies." A work from the pen of such an author cannot fail to influence the minds of its readers. But although it is not my intention (nor indeed would this be the place to do so) to criticize any of the opinions advanced in this book, it should not be forgotten that it is the outcome of a very flying visit, and its generalizations are based less, I believe, on actual observation and fact than on isolated instances and preconceived notions.

I have before alluded to the movement in favour of the introduction of some reforms into the constitution of the Island, and Her Majesty's Government has shown no inclination to oppose it. Local opinion is somewhat divided as to the desirability of making any radical change; but whether a change be made or not, the ventilation of the question will from many points of view be useful and interesting, and the people will, I believe, loyally accept the decision which may be arrived at.

The celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee afforded to the inhabitants of Trinidad an opportunity for manifesting their loyalty to their Sovereign, and their demonstrations were as hearty as they were unanimous. The community, mixed as they are in race, may in many matters differ in sentiment, but in attachment to the Throne but one feeling animates them all.

The health of the Island was fairly good. There is, however, abundant scope for the operations of the sanitary reformer.

The sugar crop was the largest ever reaped. The large yield made some amends for the low price. The weather was not favourable to cocoa, and the crop was short, notwithstanding the increased acreage under cultivation. One cannot fail to be struck with the progress which has been made in this direction in certain parts of the Island, and which would have been more rapid had it not been retarded by a want of road communication.

Petition after petition is received by me praying for the repair of existing or the opening up of new roads. But road-making in most parts of the country districts is a costly matter, and heavy rains quickly destroy those which are not macadamized. Tramways or light railways will undoubtedly be cheaper to construct and maintain than public roads, and this question, involving as it does the opening up of the richest land in the interior, is now engaging my earnest attention.

Another incident in the transactions of the year which perhaps ought to be mentioned was the settlement by the Venezuelan Government of the long outstanding claims in connexion with the seizure of the "Henrietta" and "Josephine." It is to be regretted that payment of these claims was so long delayed and that such

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strong measures had ultimately to be resorted to in order to procure a settlement. But now that the affair is at an end, it is to be hoped that a better understanding will exist between the Republic and the Colony, to their mutual advantage. Their interests are in many respects interwoven one with the other, and I need scarcely say that it is both the policy and desire of this Government to encourage and foster a friendly feeling between the inhabitants of both places.

In bringing this report to a close I may say that the prospects of Trinidad are as bright as ever they were, and I see no reason to apprehend any reverse in her fortunes if only ordinary care be used to shape aright her course.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Right Hon.
the Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

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HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

No. 4.

VICTORIA.

REPORT ON THE STATISTICS OF THE COLONY FOR 1886.

[*For Reference to previous Reports, see page* 3.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
February 1888.

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1888.

[C.—5249.—1.]

NEW SERIES OF REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	COLONY.	Price.
		d.
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2	MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES, AND RODRIGUES -	2
3	GAMBIA - - - - -	1

No. 4.

VICTORIA.

[For reference to previous Reports, *see* 1883 [C.—5071]; 1884 [C.—4842]; 1883 [C.—4404]; 1882 [C.—4015]; 1881 [C.—3642]; 1880 [C.—3218].]

REPORT on the STATISTICS for 1886.

Governor Sir H. B. LOCH to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Melbourne,
December 16, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, in accordance with a general instruction from Her Majesty's Government, a copy of the Digest of the Statistics of the Colony for the year 1886.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY B. LOCH.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, G.C.M.G., Bart., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

DIGEST of the STATISTICS of VICTORIA, 1886, by HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER, C.M.G., Government Statist.

Position of Victoria.

1. Victoria occupies the south-eastern portion of, and is the southernmost colony on the Australian continent. It lies between the 34th and 39th parallels of south latitude, and the 141st and 150th meridians of east longitude. Its extreme length from east to west is about 420, its greatest breadth about 250, and its extent of coast-line nearly 600, geographical miles.

Area of Victoria.

2. According to the latest computation, the area of Victoria is 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. The whole continent of Australia is estimated to contain 2,944,628 square miles, and, therefore, Victoria occupies about a thirty-fourth part of its surface. Great Britain contains 88,006 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

Area of Australasian Colonies.

3. The area of the Australian continent, added to the areas of Tasmania and New Zealand, amounts to nearly three million one

VICTORIA.

hundred thousand square miles. The following are the areas of the different colonies,—the calculations being based on latitude and longitude and the generally accepted figure of the earth :—

Areas of Australasian Colonies

	Square Miles.
Victoria - - - -	87,884
New South Wales - - -	309,175
Queensland - - - -	668,224
South Australia - - -	903,425
Western Australia - - -	975,920
Total Australia -	2,944,628
Tasmania - - - -	26,375
New Zealand - - -	104,027
Total Australasia -	3,075,030

Area of Victoria and other Colonies.

4. It will be noticed that Victoria is by far the smallest colony on the Australian continent, and the smallest of the group except Tasmania. If the whole continent were to be divided into 100 equal parts, the area of Victoria would embrace three such parts, that of new South Wales 10, that of Queensland 23, that of South Australia 30, and that of Western Australia 34. Victoria is thus less than a third of the size of New South Wales, little more than an eighth of that of Queensland, about a tenth of that of South Australia, and less than an eleventh of that of Western Australia.

Area of Australasia, Europe, and United States.

5. It may be mentioned that the area of Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand is less by 680,972 square miles than the area of the continent of Europe (3,756,002 square miles); but exceeds by 47,439 square miles the area of the United States, exclusive of the Alaska territory (3,027,591 square miles).

Australasia compared with other British Possessions.

6. The Australasian Colonies occupy three-eighths, and Victoria nearly a ninetieth, of the whole area of the British dominions. The Australasian Colonies contain over an eightieth, and Victoria contains nearly a two hundred and sixtieth, of the population of the whole British Empire. The area of Australasia is somewhat smaller than that of Canada, which is the largest British possession; and the population of Canada exceeds that of Australasia by about a million and a quarter. The population of Victoria is exceeded by that of no British dependency except India, Canada, Ceylon, and the Cape of Good Hope.

Positions of Australasian capitals.

7. The following are the latitudes and longitudes of the capital cities of the different Australasian Colonies, the positions being the Observatories at Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide, the Barracks Observatory at Hobart, the Survey Office Observatory at Wellington, and the Government House at Perth.

Latitudes and Longitudes of Capitals of Australasian Colonies.

Colony.	Capital City.							
	Name.	Latitude S.			Longitude E.		
		°	′	″	°	′	″
Victoria - - -	Melbourne -	37	49	53	144	58	32
New South Wales -	Sydney - -	33	51	41	151	12	23
Queensland - -	Brisbane - -	27	28	0	153	1	36
South Australia - -	Adelaide - -	34	55	34	138	35	4
Western Australia -	Perth - -	31	57	24	115	52	42
Tasmania - - -	Hobart - -	42	53	25	147	19	57
New Zealand - -	Wellington -	41	16	25	174	46	38

Climate.

8. From its geographical position, Victoria enjoys a climate more suitable to the European constitution than any other Colony upon the continent of Australia, resembling that of the more favoured portions of Southern Europe. Upon examining a chart showing isothermal lines, it will be found that Melbourne is situated upon or near the line corresponding with that in the Northern Hemisphere, on which Marseilles, Bordeaux, Bologna, Nice, Verona, and Madrid are situated. The difference, however, between summer and winter, and the hottest and coldest month, is far less in Melbourne than in any of these places. In the twenty-nine years ended with 1886, the maximum temperature in the shade was 111·2° Fahr., viz., on the 14th January 1862; the minimum was 27°, viz., on the 21st July 1869; and the mean was 57·4°. Upon the average, on four days during the year the thermometer rises above 100° in the shade; and generally on about three nights during the year it falls below freezing point. The maximum temperature in the sun ever recorded (*i.e.*, since 1857) was 178·5°, viz., on the 14th January 1862. The mean atmospheric pressure noted at an observatory, 91 feet above the sea-level, was, in the twenty-three years ended with 1886, 29·93 inches; the average number of days on which rain fell was 130, and the average yearly rainfall was 25·46 inches.

Population, 1886.

9. The estimated population of Victoria at the end of 1886 was as follows:—

Estimated Population, 31st December 1886.

Males - - - -	531,452
Females - - - -	471,591
Total - -	1,003,043

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Mean population, 1886.

10. The mean or average population during the same year may be set down as follows:—

Estimated Mean Population, 1886.

Males - - - - -	522,203
Females - - - - -	464,891
Total	987,094

Population of Australasian Colonies.

11. The following table shows the estimated population of each Australasian Colony at the end of 1885 and 1886, and the increase of each during the 12 months ended with the latter:—

Estimated Population of Australasian Colonies, 1885 *and* 1886.

Colony.	Estimated Population at end of—		Increase.
	1885.	1886.	
Victoria - - - -	971,145	1,003,043	31,898
New South Wales - -	957,914	1,001,966	44,052
Queensland - - -	315,489	343,768	28,279
South Australia - - -	313,423	312,439	−984*
Western Australia - -	35,186	40,084	4,898
Total - -	2,593,157	2,701,300	108,143†
Tasmania - - -	133,791	137,211	3,420
New Zealand - - -	575,226	589,366	14,140
Grand Total -	3,302,174	3,427,877	125,703

* The minus sign (−) indicates decrease. † Net figures.

Probable population of Australasia in 100 years.

12. The rate of increase of the population of Australia, combined with Tasmania and New Zealand, in the decennial period intervening between the last two censuses may be set down as 42 per cent. There appears to be every probability of that rate being exceeded in the decade ending with 1891; but without hazarding a prediction as to what may actually occur, the following would be the population of the group at each of the 10 next decennial census periods, supposing the same rate of increase to

take place between census and census as was found to have taken place between 1871 and 1881 :—

Probable Population of Australia at Ten Periods.

1891 - - - -	3,998,612
1901 - - - -	5,678,029
1911 - - - -	8,062,801
1921 - - - -	11,449,177
1931 - - - -	16,257,831
1941 - - - -	23,086,120
1951 - - - -	32,782,290
1961 - - - -	46,550,852
1971 - - - -	66,102,210
1981 - - - -	93,865,138

Further estimates of Australasian population.

13. Although in the intervals between the earlier decades the rate of increase will very likely be higher than that which prevailed between the last two censuses, it is hardly probable that the rate will be sustained at the later periods; but supposing the population in 1981 should amount to the number shown in the lowest line, and the increase be continued thereafter at the same rate, the population in 1991 would be 133,288,495, and in 2001 it would be 189,269,663. The consideration of such large numbers naturally excites thought as to what may not be the possibilities of a future Australasia; still it must be admitted that at the present time such speculations are more curious than practically useful.

Urban and rural population.

14. The following is a division of the area of Victoria into three districts, also the estimated mean population of each district during 1886. The first of these districts (Greater Melbourne) is that comprised within a radius of 10 miles from the centre of Melbourne; * the second, the space outside that limit embraced in cities, towns, and boroughs (present or former); and the third, the remainder of the Colony :—

Urban and Rural Population, 1886.

Districts.	Estimated Area in Square Miles.	Mean Population, 1886.		
		Total.	Proportions per cent.	Persons to the Square Mile.
Urban { Metropolitan - -	256	371,630	37·65	1,452
Urban { Extra Metropolitan -	376	187,980	19·04	501
Extra Urban or Rural - -	87,252	427,484	43·31	5
Total of Victoria - -	87,884	987,094	100·00	11·23

* Exclusive of water, which covers about 58 square miles of the area named.

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Increasing proportion of metropolitan population.

15. In 1886 the population of the metropolis was equal to nearly 38 per cent. of that of the whole Colony. The proportion has a tendency to increase, as will be observed by the following figures :—

Proportion of Population of Greater Melbourne to Total Population of Victoria.

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1861 -	- 25·89	1881 -	- 32·81
1871 -	- 28·87	1886 -	- 37·65

Population of chief extra-metropolitan towns.

16. Next to the municipalities embraced under the head of Greater Melbourne, the most important towns in Victoria are :— Ballarat, comprising three municipalities; Sandhurst, comprising two; Geelong, comprising three; and Castlemaine, comprising two municipalities. The estimated populations of these with their immediate suburbs, in 1886, were as follow :—

Population of Four Extra-Metropolitan Towns, 1886.

Town.	Population.	Town.	Population.
Ballarat - - -	40,050	Geelong - -	20,710
Sandhurst - -	36,350	Castlemaine - -	8,800

Immigration and emigration, 1886.

17. The arrivals in and departures from Victoria recorded during 1886, also the excess of the former over the latter, were as follow :—

Immigration and Emigration, 1886.

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Arrivals by sea - - -	65,946	27,458	93,404
Departures by sea - - -	47,382	20,720	68,102
Excess of arrivals - -	18,564	6,738	25,302

Gain by immigration, 1885 and 1886, compared.

18. The records of arrivals show larger numbers for 1886 than for 1885 by 16,428, and the records of departures show larger numbers for 1886 than for 1885 by 6,108; the apparent total gain by excess of immigration over emigration was therefore greater in the year under review than the previous one by 10,320.

Government finance account, 1885–6.

19. In Victoria, during the year ended 30th June 1886, the expenditure exceeded the receipts by about 32,500*l.*, but a credit balance of 464,000*l.* having been brought forward from the

previous year, there remained to be carried forward to 1886–7 a credit balance of 431,500*l.*, thus :—

Finance Account, 1885–6.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Receipts - - -	6,481,020	18	6
Expenditure - - -	6,513,539	11	2
Expenditure in excess of receipts - - -	32,518	12	8
Credit balance from 1884–5 -	464,078	7	3
Credit balance carried forward to 1886–7 - - -	431,559	14	7

20. The following are the amounts of surplus or deficiency of revenue in each year, and the balances carried forward from year to year from 1856 to 1885–6 :— Surplus or deficiency and balances.

Gross Surplus or Deficiency of Revenue, and Balances, 1856 *to* 1885–6.

Year.	Revenue of Victoria.	
	Surplus (+). Deficiency (−).	Balances carried forward. Credit (+). Debit (−).
	£	£
1856 - - - -	+ 303,662	+ 249,994
1857 - - - -	+ 359,645	+ 609,639
1858 - - - -	− 119,337	+ 490,302
1859 - - - -	− 132,842	+ 357,460
1860 - - - -	− 232,846	+ 124,614
1861 - - - -	− 139,920	− 15,306
1862 - - - -	+ 229,582	+ 214,276
1863 - - - -	− 108,251	+ 106,025
1864 - - - -	+ 26,435	+ 132,460
1865 - - - -	+ 93,108	+ 225,568
1866 - - - -	− 142,865	+ 82,703
1867 - - - -	− 25,501	+ 57,202
1868 - - - -	+ 41,432	+ 98,634
1869 - - - -	+ 157,819	+ 256,453
1870 - - - -	− 166,499	+ 89,954
1871 (six months) - - -	− 62,984	+ 26,970
1871–72 - - - -	+ 74,888	+ 101,858
1872–73 - - - -	+ 139,182	+ 241,040
1873–74 - - - -	− 70,548	+ 170,492
1874–75 - - - -	− 81,698	+ 88,794
1875–76 - - - -	− 247,688	− 158,894
1876–77 - - - -	+ 365,781	+ 206,887
1877–78 - - - -	− 129,936	+ 76,951
1878–79 - - - -	− 211,859	− 134,908
1879–80 - - -	− 253,747	− 388,655
1880–81 - - - -	+ 77,369	− 311,286

VICTORIA.

Year.	Revenue of Victoria.	
	Surplus (+). Deficiency(−).	Balances carried forward. Credit (+). Debit (−).
	£	£
1881–82 - - - -	+ 446,598	+ 135,312
1882–83 - - - -	− 40,632	+ 94,680
1883–84 - - - -	+ 219,394	+ 314,074
1884–85 - - - -	+ 150,005	+ 464,079
1885–86 - - - -	− 32,519	+ 431,560

Years of highest and lowest surplus and deficiency, &c.

21. It will be noticed that there was a surplus of revenue in 14, and a deficiency of revenue in 16, of the years named; a deficiency also in the six months ended with June 1871. On the whole, the deficiencies were smaller than the surpluses, as the surplus carried forward at the end of the last year exceeded that at the end of the first year of the period by 181,566*l.* The largest surplus of revenue was in 1881–2, but the largest credit balance carried forward was at the end of 1857. The largest deficiency of revenue was in 1879–80, that being also the year at the end of which the largest debit balance was carried forward.

Revenue, 1885–6 and previous years.

22. The revenue of 1885–6 was the largest ever raised in Victoria. It exceeded the revenue of 1884–5, which was the year in which the largest revenue had previously been realised, by nearly 200,000*l.*, and exceeded the revenue of 1883–4, which was the year in which the next highest revenue had been raised, by over 546,000*l.* In the 10 years ended with the year under review the revenue increased from 4,300,000*l.* to 6,500,000*l.*, or by 51 per cent.

Expenditure, 1885–6 and former years.

23. The expenditure of 1885–6 was also above that of any previous year, it being larger than in 1884–5, the year in which the next largest expenditure occurred, by 373,000*l.* Prior to 1853, the annual expenditure never exceeded one million sterling; from 1853 to 1872-3 it was usually nearly up to or slightly over three millions; from 1873–4 to 1879–80 it was between four and four and three quarter millions; from 1880–81 to 1883–4 it ranged from five to nearly five and three quarter millions; and in the two years ended with 1885–6, it exceeded six millions sterling.

Revenue and expenditure of Australia and Australasia, 1885.

24. In 1885 the revenues of the colonies on the continent of Australia amounted to over 19 millions, and their expenditure to over 20 millions; also the aggregate revenue of Australia, with the addition of that of Tasmania and New Zealand, amounted to over 23¾ millions, and the aggregate expenditure to nearly 25¼ millions, sterling. In Continental Australia there was a deficiency on the years' transactions of a million, and in the Australasian Colonies as a whole there was a deficiency of nearly

one and a half millions, which deficiencies were partly made good by means of balances carried forward from previous years.

The following are the exact amounts of revenue and expenditure, also the proportions per head of population :—

Revenue and Expenditure of Australia and Australasia, 1885.

	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Continent of Australia - -	19,348,719	7 12 9	20,352,910	8 0 8
Ditto, with Tasmania and New Zealand - - - -	23,780,112	7 6 0	25,221,578	7 16 2

25. A comparison of the aggregate revenue of the Colonies upon the Australian continent in 1873 and in 1885 shows that in the 12 years it had risen from 9,161,000*l.* to 19,349,000*l.*, the increase being over 10 millions sterling, or 111 per cent. If the revenues of Tasmania and New Zealand be added, the sums shows an aggregate revenue for the whole of Australasia of 12,262,000*l.* at the former, and of 23,780,000*l.* at the latter, period, the increase being 11½ millions, or 94 per cent. In the same 12 years, the population of the Australian continent increased from 1,702,840 to 2,538,900, or 49 per cent., and the population of the whole of Australasia increased from 2,103,000 to 3,231,300, or 54 per cent. Increased revenue of Australasia in 12 years.

26. The following is a summary of the aggregate expenditure under various heads for Australia and Australasia :— Heads of expenditure in Australasia.

Heads of Expenditure in Australia and Australasia, 1885.

Heads of Expenditure.	Continent of Australia.		Australia, with Tasmania and New Zealand.	
	Amount.	Amount per Head.	Amount.	Amount per Head.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Railways - - -	4,020,667	1 11 9	4,818,196	1 9 10
Post and telegraphs -	1,631,335	0 12 10	1,970,162	0 12 2
Interest on public debt, &c.	4,010,301	1 11 8	5,857,498	1 16 3
Immigration - -	88,079	0 0 8	88,079	0 0 7
Other services - -	10,602,528	4 3 9	12,487,643	3 17 4
Total - -	20,352,910	8 0 8	25,221,578	7 16 2

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Loan expenditure in Australasian Colonies, 1885.

27. In addition to the expenditure of amounts derived from the general revenue, as shown in the last table, all the Colonies spend large amounts of borrowed money, chiefly on railways and waterworks, but also, in some instances, on the construction of electric telegraphs, harbour works and lighthouses, defence works, roads and bridges, school buildings and other public works, and on immigration. The following table shows the total loan expenditure of the various Colonies during 1885, also the amounts per head:—

Expenditure from Loans in Australasian Colonies, 1885.

Name of Colony.	Expenditure from Loans during 1885.	
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.
	£	£ s. d.
Victoria - - - - - -	1,153,065	1 4 5
New South Wales - - - -	3,896,145	4 3 9
Queensland - - - - -	1,711,724	5 10 10
South Australia - - - - -	1,136,446	3 12 7
Western Australia - - - -	162,992	4 15 8
Total - - - -	8,060,372	3 3 8
Tasmania - - - - -	465,448	3 10 5
New Zealand - - - - -	1,778,884	3 2 10
Grand Total - - -	10,304,704	3 3 9

Loan expenditure of different Colonies compared.

28. It will be observed that the aggregate loan expenditure of the Australasian Colonies in 1885 was not far short of 10⅓ millions sterling, nearly four millions of which was spent by New South Wales, that amount being much more than three times as large as that spent by Victoria. It will also be noticed that the loan expenditure per head of population was much lower in Victoria, but much higher in Queensland, than in any other Colony.

Heads of loan expenditure in Australia and Australasia.

29. Of the loan expenditure of the Australasian Colonies during 1885 nearly two thirds, or 2*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* per head of population, was spent in the construction of railways; about one thirteenth, or 5*s.* per head, in waterworks; nearly 172,500*l.*, or 1*s.* 1*d.* per head, on the introduction of immigrants, and the balance for other

services. The following are the amounts, and the amounts per head, expended under each of these heads in Australia and Australasia respectively during 1885 :— VICTORIA.

Heads of Loan Expenditure in Australia and Australasia, 1885.

Heads of Loan Expenditure.	Continent of Australia.		Australia, with Tasmania and New Zealand.	
	Amount.	Amount per Head.	Amount.	Amount per Head.
	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Railways - - -	5,867,960	2 6 4	6,650,360	2 1 2
Water supply - - -	829,843	0 6 7	829,843	0 5 1
Immigration - - -	140,679	0 1 1	172,468	0 1 1
Other services - -	1,221,890	0 9 8	2,652,033	0 16 5
Total - -	8,060,372	3 3 8	10,304,704	3 3 9

30. The amounts of which revenue is made up may be divided into two classes, viz., those raised by taxation, and those raised otherwise. In Victoria, the former class consists of customs and excise duties, wharfage rates, port and harbour dues, business licenses, duties on bank notes, duties on estates of deceased persons, a land tax, and stamp duties. The latter class comprises amounts derived from the sale or occupation of Crown lands, from railways, from water-supply, from post and telegraph offices, from the Mint, from fees, fines and forfeitures, from the interest on the public account, from the labour of prisoners, &c. The following figures show the result of a division of the Victorian Revenue upon this principle:— Taxation.

Taxation, 1885–86.

	£
Revenue raised by taxation - -	2,634,560
„ otherwise - -	3,846,461
Total - - - -	6,481,021

31. The public debt of Victoria amounted on the 30th June 1886* to 30,110,935*l.* consisting of moneys :— Public Debt.

	£
Borrowed in Victoria - -	1,696,935
„ Great Britain - -	28,414,000
Total - - -	30,110,935

* On the 30th June 1887 the public debt amounted to 33,119,164*l.*

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Purposes for which loans were incurred.

32. The aggregate amount of the loans raised up to the 30th June 1886 was 40,031,255*l.*; but a total of 9,920,320*l.* having been repaid, viz., 2,103,100*l.* out of the general revenue, and 7,817,220*l.* out of the proceeds of redemption loans; the balance outstanding on the 30th June 1886 was reduced to 30,110,935*l.* The amount of public debt borrowed under each of the purposes for which the debt was incurred, the amount paid off, and the amount outstanding on the 30th June 1886 are shown in the following table:—

Purposes for which Loans were raised.

Purposes.	Total Amount borrowed.	Amount paid off.	Amount outstanding on 30th June, 1886.
	£	£	£
Railways - - - -	23,145,747	68,100	23,077,647
Water supply—			
Melbourne - - -	2,083,684	800,000	1,283,684
Country - - -	3,043,078	—	3,043,078
Graving dock - - -	350,464	—	350,464
Law Courts and Parliament Houses	600,713	—	600,713
Public offices - - -	166,195	—	166,195
Defences - - - -	100,000	—	100,000
State schools - - -	1,105,557	—	1,105,557
Yarra Bridge - - -	108,043	—	108,043
Harbours, &c. - - -	275,554	—	275,554
Melbourne and Geelong improvements - - - -	735,000	735,000	—
Treasury bonds - - -	500,000	500,000	—
	32,214,035	2,103,100	30,110,935
Redemption of loans - -	7,817,220	7,817,220	—
Total - - -	40,031,255	9,920,320	30,110,935

Interest on loans for different works.

33. The annual interest payable on the public debt as it existed at the end of the financial year 1885–6 was equivalent to an average rate of about 4*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* per 100*l.*, the rates on the amounts borrowed for the different works in most cases varying from 4 to $4\frac{2}{5}$ per cent. No money has been borrowed at 6 per cent. since 1866; and the 5, $4\frac{1}{2}$, and 4 per cent. loans floated since, together with the substitution of 4 per cent. debentures for the 6 per cents. which had become due, have gradually brought down the rate of interest, so that at the end of 1885–6 it averaged only $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. as just stated. The following are the particulars of the amounts borrowed for the different works, and the amount and average rate of interest payable thereon annually.

Interest on Loans for different Works.

Purpose for which Raised.	Amount Outstanding on 30th June 1886.	Interest payable Annually.	
		Amount.	Average Rate.
	£	£	Per cent.
Railways	23,077,647	979,920	4·25
Water supply { Melbourne	1,283,684	52,610	4·10
Water supply { Country	3,043,078	133,840	4·40
Graving dock	350,464	15,307	4·37
Law Courts and Parliament Houses	600,713	25,265	4·20
Public offices	166,195	6,789	4·09
Defences	100,000	6,000	6·00
State schools	1,105,557	45,222	4·09
Yarra Bridge	108,043	4,622	4·28
Harbours, &c.	275,554	11,022	4·00
Total	30,110,935	1,280,597	4·25

34. As regards the total amount, the most heavily indebted Australasian Colony is New South Wales, but in proportion to population, New Zealand. Victoria, relatively to population, is less indebted than any Colony of the group except Tasmania. Debts of Australasian Colonies.

Public Debts of Australasian Colonies at the end of 1886.

Colony.	Public Debt, 1886.	
	Total Amount.	Amount per Head.
	£	£ s. d.
Victoria	30,114,203	30 0 5
New South Wales	41,034,249	40 19 1
Queensland	20,820,850	60 15 5
South Australia	18,340,200	58 12 10
Western Australia	1,286,000	32 9 9
Total Australia	111,595,502	41 6 2
Tasmania	4,026,720	29 6 11
New Zealand	37,587,776	63 15 6
Total Australasia	153,209,998	44 14 3

35. The marriages registered in 1886 numbered 7,737, as against 7,395 for the previous year. The excess in favour of 1886 was thus 342. Marriages, 1886.

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Marriages, 1886, and former years.

36. More marriages were returned for 1886 than for any previous year. The number returned annually had been almost stationary during the seven years prior to 1880, but in that year an advance was made, which has been more than sustained since. In 1882, for the first time, the marriages returned exceeded 6,000; and in 1884, for the first time, they exceeded 7,000.

Marriage rate.

37. The proportion which the number of marriages bear to the total population is generally called the marriage rate. This for many years has been declining in Victoria, for, whilst in the three years prior to 1863 it was 8 per 1,000 of both sexes and all ages, from 1863 to 1865 it was between 7 and 8 per 1,000, and between 1868 and 1878 it was between 6 and 7 per 1,000. It reached its lowest point, 5·98 per 1,000, in 1879; and then gradually revived, and in 1886 amounted to 7·84 per 1,000, this being the highest rate which has prevailed during the last 24 years.

Births, 1886.

38. The births registered in Victoria during 1886 numbered 30,824, as against 29,975 in 1885. The increase in the year under review, as compared with the previous one, was 849.

Births in 1886 and former years.

39. During the 20 years ended with 1883, the number of births in Victoria had remained almost stationary; but in 1884 a marked increase took place, which was more than sustained in 1885 and 1886, the number of births in the latter year being the highest ever recorded. Births in 1886 were in the proportion of 31·23 per 1,000 of the population. The birth-rate has not improved in the same proportion as the marriage rate, it having been only 1 per 1,000 better in 1886 than in 1883, which was the year in which it fell to its lowest point.

Deaths, 1886.

40. The deaths registered in 1886 numbered 14,952, as against 14,364 in 1885. The increase in the year under notice was thus 588.

Deaths, 1886, and former years.

41. Deaths were more numerous in 1886 than in any previous year, except 1875. The high mortality in the last-named year, in which 15,287 deaths were recorded, was due to the prevalence of measles and scarlatina in an epidemic form.

Excess of births over deaths.

42. The births in 1886 exceeded the deaths by 15,872, or 106 per cent., as against 109 per cent. in 1885. In the five years ended with 1885 the proportion averaged 110 per cent.; whilst during the period of 21 years ended with 1886 the average was 120 per cent.

Deaths of males and females.

43. Deaths of males, in 1886, numbered 8,575, and deaths of females, 6,377. These numbers furnish a proportion of 74 females to every 100 males, as against a proportion of 73 in 1885, an average of 74 in the five years 1881–85, and of 75 in the 10 years 1871–80. Females in the total population were in the proportion of 90 to every 100 males during the last two years, and during the quinquennium referred to; and of about 87 to every 100 males during the decennium; therefore at each period more males and fewer females died than their relative numbers in the population might have given reason to expect.

Crown lands unalienated.

44. According to the latest computation, the total area of Victoria is 56,245,760 acres; and if from this be deducted the sum of the lands granted, sold, and selected, amounting—less the extent forfeited—to 22,489,383 acres, it will follow that the residue, representing the Crown lands neither alienated nor in process of alienation, amounted at the end of 1886 to 33,756,377 acres.

Public estate, 1886.

45. The whole of this residue, however, is not available for settlement, for it embraces lands occupied by roads, the unsold portions of the sites of towns, and beds of rivers and lakes, the State forests, water, timber, and other reserves. Deducting these lands—amounting in the aggregate to 4,915,898 acres, also that portion of the Colony known as the Mallee country, containing 11,535,500 acres, leased for pastoral purposes under a special Act, and 1,691,315 acres occupied under lease or license for various terms of years—from the extent unalienated and unselected, already stated to have been 33,756,377 acres, it will be found that the available area is narrowed down to 15,613,664 acres. This will be at once seen by the following table, which shows the position of the public estate at the end of 1886:—

Public Estate of Victoria on 31st December 1886.

Condition of Land.	Approximate Number of Acres.
Land alienated in fee-simple	14,780,197
Land in process of alienation under deferred payments	7,709,186
Roads in connexion with the above	1,311,200
Water reserves	155,900
Reserves as endowment for agricultural college	122,077
Timber reserves and State forests	1,210,810
Other reserves	204,540
Unsold land in towns, beds of rivers, &c.	1,911,371
Mallee country	11,535,500
Land in occupation under—	
Pastoral lease	1,078,000
Grazing area leases	591,138
Grazing licenses on auriferous lands	22,177
Available for settlement at end of 1886	15,613,664
Total area of Victoria	56,245,760

Crown lands available for settlement.

46. The area of the Colony, exclusive of the Mallee country, is 44,710,260 acres, of which at the end of 1886, 22,489,383 acres, or 50 per cent., were already alienated or in process of alienation; 4,915,898 acres, or 11 per cent., were occupied by reserves, &c.; 1,691,315 acres, or 4 per cent., were occupied under lease for pastoral purposes; and 15,613,664 acres, or 35 per cent., were available for settlement.

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Classification of available land.

47. Following the classification provided for under the existing Land Act, the estimated area of Crown lands exclusive of the Mallee country, available under the Land Act, 1884, at the end of 1886, may be divided as follows:—

Classification of Land available at the end of 1886.

—	No. of Allotments.	Acres.
Pastoral lands - - - -	258	5,690,800
Agricultural and grazing lands - - -	12,290	8,243,482
Auriferous lands - - - - -	—	1,447,973
Swamp lands - - - - -	—	87,310
May be sold by auction - - - -	—	144,119
Total - - - - -	—	15,613,664

Amount realised, 1836 to 1886.

48. From the period of the first settlement of the Colony to the end of 1886, the amount nominally realised by the sale of Crown lands was 22,895,324*l.* or at the rate of 1*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* per acre. It must, however, be remembered that payment of a considerable portion of this amount extended over a series of years without interest, allowance for which, at the current rate would, it is evident, materially reduce the amount the State actually obtained for the land. It may be calculated that, with interest at 5 per cent. if the payment of the 1*l.* per acre by equal annual instalments be extended over 10 years without interest, the amount of purchase money is really equivalent to only 15*s.* 6*d.* per acre, and if it be extended over 20 years, it is reduced to 12*s.* 6*d.* per acre.

Number of cultivators.

49. The total number of farm holdings in 1886 was 38,216, of which 36,953 were in shires, 1,139 in cities, towns, or boroughs, and 124 in places outside of local jurisdiction. In the previous year the number of farms visited was 38,384, the falling off being thus 168. The slight falling off shown is accounted for by the fact that on the present occasion the collectors were, for the first time, told not to visit holdings on which there was no other cultivation than artificial grass.

Land under tillage.

50. The extent of land returned as under cultivation amounted in 1886–7 to 2,417,582 acres, as against 2,405,157 acres in 1885–6. The increase shown by the figures was, therefore, 12,425 acres.

Area cultivated per head of population.

51. The average area in cultivation to each person in the Colony was about 2½ acres in the year under review, as against

2 acres five years previously, and 1½ acre 10 years previously. The exact amounts at the three periods were as follow :—

Average Area cultivated to each Person in the Colony.

	Acres.
1876–7 - - - - -	1·54
1881–2 - - - -	2·06
1886–7 - - - - -	2·41

Land under principal crops.

52. The principal crops grown are wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, hay, and green forage. In 1886–7 the area under wheat exceeded by 33,000 acres that in the previous year, but was not so large by 44,000 acres as in 1884–5 ; the area under potatoes and hay was larger than in any previous year; the area under oats was smaller than in any one of the previous three years ; and the area under barley than in any one of the previous seven years; it being only half that in 1885–6 ; the area under green forage was apparently exceeded in nine other years, but this is accounted for by the fact already mentioned, viz., that the collectors, in the year under review, were for the first time told not to visit holdings on which there was no other cultivated land than that laid down under permanent artificial grass, which crop is included under the head of green forage. The following table shows the extent of land under each of these crops in the last two seasons :—

Land under Principal Crops, 1886 *and* 1887.

Year ended March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.	Green Forage.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1886 - - -	1,020,082	215,994	74,112	42,602	421,036	334,399
1887 - - -	1,052,685	185,765	37,031	49,974	445,150	284,186
Increase -	32,603	—	—	7,372	24,114	—
Decrease -	—	30,229	37,081	—	—	50,213

Produce of principal crops.

53. The gross yield of wheat exceeded that in 1885–6 by nearly 300,000 bushels, or something less than a third, and was only exceeded in one previous year, viz., 1883–4 ; the yield of oats was less than in any one of the previous four years, and the yield of barley than in any one of the previous seven years except 1882–3 ; the yield of potatoes and that of hay were greater than in any previous year. The following is a statement of the gross

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produce of each of the principal crops in 1885–6 and 1886–7 gross:—

Gross Produce of Principal Crops, 1886 *and* 1887.

Year ended March.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1886 - -	9,170,538	4,692,303	1,302,854	163,202	442,118
1887 - -	12,100,036	4,256,079	827,852	170,661	483,049
Increase -	2,929,498	—	—	7,459	40,931
Decrease -	—	436,224	475,002	—	—

Yield of principal crops, 1872 to 1886.

54. In the past season, over the Colony, as a whole, the acreable yield of wheat, potatoes, and hay was below, and that of oats and barley above, the average; thus, the yield per acre of wheat was lower than in any of the 15 other years named in the following table, except 1886 and 1885, the three years ended with 1883 and 1879; that of potatoes was lower than in any year, except 1881, the four years ended with 1879, 1874, and 1872; and that of hay was lower than in any except 1886, 1885, and 1883. On the other hand, the yield per acre of oats was exceeded only in the four years ended with 1885, and in 1880; and that of barley only in 1884 and 1880:—

Average Produce of Principal Crops, 1872 *to* 1887.

Year ended March.	Average Produce per Acre of—				
	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.	Hay.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Tons.	Tons.
1872 - - -	13·45	18·76	20·00	3·22	1·40
1873 - - -	16·51	19·55	20·86	3·45	1·32
1874 - - -	13·58	15·69	19·84	2·86	1·27
1875 - - -	14·57	18·46	21·01	3·53	1·32
1876 - - -	15·49	21·92	22·20	3·37	1·33
1877 - - -	13·15	19·91	21·18	3·31	1·22
1878 - - -	12·41	19·39	19·81	3·11	1·17
1879 - - -	8·76	17·60	18·24	2·71	1·21
1880 - - -	13·29	24·00	24·67	4·04	1·45
1881 - - -	9·95	17·62	15·57	2·81	1·20
1882 - - -	9·40	24·57	19·07	3·43	1·13
1883 - - -	9·03	26·17	17·35	3·78	1·06
1884 - - -	14·10	25·07	22·84	4·01	1·43
1885 - - -	9·52	23·40	17·38	4·16	1·09
1886 - - -	8·99	21·72	17·58	3·83	1·05
1887 - - -	11·49	22·91	22·36	3·41	1·09
Mean - -	12·11	21·05	20·00	3·44	1·23

Value of agricultural produce.

55. The value of the agricultural produce raised in Victoria during the year ended 1st March 1887, may be estimated at over 7¼ millions sterling. The following table shows the means whereby such an estimate is arrived at:—

Value of Agricultural Produce, 1886–7.

Name of Crop.	Gross Produce and Price.			Estimated Value.
		£ s. d.		£
Wheat	12,100,036 bushels	@	0 3 9	2,268,757
Oats	4,256,079 „	@	0 2 9	585,211
Barley	827,852 „	@	0 3 3	134,576
Other cereals	826,002 „	@	0 3 3	134,225
Potatoes	170,661 tons	@	4 0 0	682,664
Other root crops	37,925 „	@	3 0 0	113,775
Hay	483,049 „	@	3 13 0	1,763,129
Green forage	284,186 acres	@	2 10 0	710,465
Tobacco	12,008 cwt.	@	2 16 0	33,622
Grapes, not made into wine	33,334 „	@	1 0 0	33,334
Wine	986,041 gallons	@	0 4 0	197,208
Brandy	3,233 „	@	0 10 0	1,617
Hops	5,023 cwt.	@	4 4 0	21,098
Other crops	5,841 acres	@	5 0 0	29,205
Garden and orchard produce	27,593 „	@	20 0 0	551,860
	Total	-	-	7,260,746

Live stock, 1881 and 1887.

56. Information as to the numbers of live stock in Victoria was obtained at the census of 1881, and since that time the figures have been brought on by estimates furnished by the municipal authorities. The following are the census numbers, and the numbers in March 1887 as derived from the municipal estimates alluded to:—

Live Stock, 1881 *and* 1887.

Period.	Horses.	Cattle.			Sheep.	Pigs.
		Milch Cows.	Exclusive of Milch Cows.	Total.		
3rd April 1881 (enumerated)	275,516	329,198	957,069	1,286,267	10,360,285	241,936
March 1887 (estimated)	308,553	335,727	967,538	1,303,265	10,700,403	240,957
Increase	33,037	6,529	10,469	16,998	340,118	—
Decrease	—	—	—	—	—	979

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Value of pastoral produce.

57. The following is an estimate of the gross value of pastoral produce raised on holdings of all descriptions in 1886–87 :—

Value of Pastoral Produce, 1886–87.

Nature of Produce.	Value.
	£
Milk, butter, and cheese, from 335,727 milch cows kept, @ 8*l.* 10*s.*	2,853,679
Estimated value of stock produced in 1886 :—	
Cattle, 335,727, viz., 223,818, @ 8*l.*, and 111,909 (calves), @ 30*s.*	1,958,407
Sheep, 2,675,100, @ 7*s.* 6*d.* - - - -	1,003,162
Pigs, 72,290, @ 2*l.* 10*s.* - - - - -	180,725
Horses, 15,430 @ 8*l.* - - - - -	123,440
Excess of exports over imports of wool, Customs value - -	2,668,063
Estimated value of wool used in the Colony for manufacturing purposes, 1,651,458 lbs., @ 1*s.* 6*d.*	123,860
Total - - - - - -	8,911,336

NOTE.—The principle on which the numbers of "stock produced" have been estimated is as follows :—It has been assumed that the increase of cattle amounted to one to every milch cow, and that one-third of the calves born were slaughtered for veal, the remainder taking the place of the older cattle slaughtered. The increase of sheep has been reckoned at 25 per cent. on the total number of both sexes over six months old in the Colony, that being the proportionate increase ascertained by Mr. A. J. Skene, the late Surveyor-General of Victoria, to have taken place during a series of years on nearly 3¾ millions of sheep on 34 stations situated in various parts of the Colony. The increase of pigs and horses has been arbitrarily estimated at 30 and 5 per cent. respectively upon the total numbers of such stock. The value per head set down for the different kinds of stock is intended to represent the average value per head of all the stock of each kind in the Colony, young and old; for although the stock born in the year would be only six months old, on the average, when the year terminated, and would, consequently, not be of so high a value as the figures indicate, yet all the growing or fattening stock may be considered to have become more valuable during the year, and the increase of bulk, and consequently of value, of such stock may fairly be set down as part of the year's produce as much as the stock actually born therein, the numbers of the latter being taken as a basis whereto such values may be applied. The quantity of wool manufactured in Victoria, has been ascertained from the various woollen mills. No estimate has been made of the value of meat, tallow, lard, hides, skins, horns, hoofs, bones, &c., as this is supposed to be included in the value of stock produced.

Gold raised, 1885 and 1886.

58. The gold raised in Victoria in 1886 was 665,196 ozs., which is less than the quantity obtained in 1885 by 70,022 ozs., representing at 4*l.* per oz. a diminished value of 280,088*l.* The following are the figures for the two years :—

Quantity and Value of Gold raised in 1885 *and* 1886.

Year.	Gold raised in Victoria.	
	Estimated Quantity.	Value, at 4*l.* per oz.
	Ozs.	£
1885 - - - -	735,218	2,940,872
1886 - - - -	665,196	2,660,784
Decrease - -	70,022	280,088

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Gold raised, 1871 to 1886.

59. From 1871 to 1879 the quantity of gold raised from year to year had been steadily diminishing, but in the next three years an improvement took place, which, however, was not sustained in the following four years, the yield in the last of these being less than in any other year since 1851. The following figures give an estimate of the quantity of gold raised in 1871 and each subsequent year:—

Estimated quantity of Gold raised, 1871 *to* 1886.

	Ozs.
1871 - - - -	1,355,477
1872 - - - -	1,282,521
1873 - - - -	1,241,205
1874 - - - -	1,155,972
1875 - - - -	1,095,787
1876 - - - -	963,760
1877 - - - -	809,653
1878 - - - -	775,272
1879 - - - -	758,947
1880 - - - -	829,121
1881 - - - -	858,850
1882 - - - -	898,536
1883 - - - -	810,047
1884 - - - -	778,618
1885 - - - -	735,218
1886 - - - -	665,196

Gold raised, 1851 to 1886.

60. Carrying on to the end of 1886 the calculations given in previous years, the following may be estimated as the total quantity and value of the gold raised in Victoria from the period of its first discovery about the middle of 1851. The figures give an average per annum during the whole period of about 1,532,000 ozs., which is more than twice the quantity raised in 1886:—

Estimated Total Quantity and Value of Gold raised in Victoria, 1851 *to* 1886.

Gold raised in Victoria.	Estimated Quantity.	Value at 4*l.* per oz.
	Ozs.	£
Prior to 1886 - - - -	53,727,986	214,911,944
During 1886 - - - -	665,196	2,660,784
Total - - - -	54,393,182	217,572,728

Gold raised in Australasian Colonies.

61. Since the first discovery in 1851 of gold in Australasia, 81 million ounces have been raised in the various Colonies, two-thirds of which was got in Victoria. The following is a statement of the quantity recorded as having been raised in the respective Colonies during each year. No figures are given for

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Western Australia, as up to the end of 1886 only nominal quantities of gold had been found there :—

Gold Produce in Australasian Colonies, 1851 *to* 1886.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Tasmania.	New Zealand.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
1851	145,137	144,121	—	—	—	—
1852	2,738,484	818,752	—	—	—	—
1853	3,150,021	548,053	—	—	—	—
1854	2,392,065	237,911	—	—	—	—
1855	2,793,065	170,146	—	—	—	—
1856	2,985,735	183,946	—	—	—	—
1857	2,761,567	161,043	—	—	—	10,437
1858	2,528,227	280,558	—	—	—	13,534
1859	2,280,717	323,984	—	—	—	7,336
1860	2,156,700	381,614	4,127	—	—	4,538
1861	1,967,453	459,879	1,077	—	—	194,031
1862	1,658,281	616,910	190	—	—	410,862
1863	1,627,105	467,399	3,937	—	—	628,450
1864	1,545,437	341,954	22,037	—	—	480,171
1865	1,543,188	364,541	25,339	—	—	574,574
1866	1,478,280	287,534	22,916	—	348	735,376
1867	1,433,246	269,407	49,092	—	1,363	666,905
1868	1,634,200	258,773	165,801	—	692	637,474
1869	1,337,296	252,130	138,221	—	137	614,281
1870	1,222,798	240,402	136,773	—	964	544,880
1871	1,355,477	321,469	171,937	—	6,005	730,029
1872	1,232,521	424,100	186,019	2,494	6,969	445,370
1873	1,241,205	360,850	194,895	98	4,661	505,337
1874	1,155,972	270,710	375,586	8,351	4,651	376,388
1875	1,095,787	229,386	391,515	13,742	3,010	355,322
1876	963,760	155,166	374,776	9,858	11,107	322,016
1877	809,653	122,619	428,104	11,812	5,777	371,685
1878	775,272	117,978	310,247	10,746	25,249	310,486
1879	758,947	107,640	288,556	14,250	60,155	287,464
1880	829,121	116,751	267,136	13,246	52,595	305,248
1881	858,850	145,532	270,945	16,976	56,693	270,561
1882	898,536	129,233	224,893	15,669	49,122	251,204
1883	810,047	122,257	212,783	15,939	46,577	248,374
1884	778,618	105,933	307,804	21,455	42,340	229,946
1885	735,218	100,667	310,941	18,327	41,241	237,371
1886	665,196	101,417	340,998	21,115	31,014	227,079
Total	54,393,182	9,740,765	5,226,645	194,078	450,670	11,016,729

Value of gold raised in Australasia.

62. According to the above figures the total quantity of gold raised in each Colony from 1851 to 1866 has been as follows :—

Summary of Gold Produce of Australasia, 1851 *to* 1886.

	Oz.
Victoria - - -	54,393,182
New South Wales - -	9,740,765
Queensland - - -	5,226,645
South Australia - - -	194,078
Tasmania - - -	450,670
New Zealand - - -	11,016,729
Total - -	81,022,069

63. The average value of the gold raised varies in the different Colonies. If it be estimated at 4*l.* per ounce, the total value would be 324,088,276, or if at 3*l.* 15*s.* per ounce, it would be 302,832,758*l.*

Value of gold raised in Australasia.

64. During 1886 there were 11 banks of issue in Victoria, possessing therein 419 branches or agencies. There were also 11 banks of issue in the Colony in 1881, but 12 in 1876.

Number of banks.

65. The position of the banks as regards liabilities, assets, capital, and profits, according to the sworn returns for the last quarter of the same three years, was as follows:—

Liabilities, assets, &c., of banks.

Financial Position of Banks, 1876, 1881, *and* 1886.

——	1876.	1881.	1886.
LIABILITIES.	£	£	£
Notes in circulation -	1,335,478	1,359,495	1,399,208
Bills in circulation -	54,472	60,198	92,981
Balances due to other banks.	287,179	330,414	354,328
Deposits not bearing interest.	4,722,549	7,425,356	7,239,681
Deposits bearing interest -	10,127,599	13,726,554	23,999,791
Total - -	16,527,277	22,902,017	33,085,989
ASSETS.			
Coined gold, silver, and other metals.	3,162,188	2,695,474	4,565,990
Gold and silver in bullion and bars.	357,189	313,017	366,950
Landed property - -	790,129	901,253	1,222,260
Notes and bills of other banks.	129,000	144,034	151,089
Balances due from other banks.	341,156	336,611	239,556
Debts due to the banks -	19,138,461	22,783,420	34,625,144
Total - -	23,918,123	27,173,809	41,170,989
CAPITAL AND PROFITS.			
Capital stock paid up -	8,630,745	9,143,122	9,568,418
Average rate per annum of last dividend declared.	11·757 per cent.	9·981 per cent.	12·141 per cent.
Amount of last dividend declared.	507,340	456,300	580,875
Amount of reserved profits after declaring dividend.	2,650,096	2,694,329	4,669,116

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Banks in Australasian Colonies, 1886.

66. The following table shows the assets and liabilities of the banks in each of the Australasian Colonies at the end of the second quarter of the present year:—

Banks in Australasian Colonies, 1887.

(Compiled from the Averages of the Quarter ended 30th June, 1887.)

Colony.	Number of Banks.	Liabilities.				
		Notes in Circulation.	Bills in Circulation.	Balances due to other Banks.	Deposits.*	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£
Victoria - - -	11	1,389,990	111,000	278,190	33,852,240	35,631,420
New South Wales - -	14	1,496,190	64,140	1,434,330	28,744,430	31,739,090
Queensland - -	10	611,970	18,980	39,940	7,345,410	8,016,300
South Australia - -	11	383,690	9,470	53,180	4,956,440	5,402,780
Western Australia -	4	55,730	4,820	34,220	947,030	1,041,800
Tasmania - - -	5	156,940	41,700	5,770	4,054,310	4,258,720
New Zealand - -	6	920,910	47,630	26,010	11,036,500	12,025,050
Total - -	61	5,015,420	297,740	1,865,640	90,936,360	98,115,160

Colony.	Assets.					
	Coin and Bullion.	Landed Property.	Notes and Bills of other Banks.	Balances due from other Banks.	All Debts due to Banks.†	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria - -	5,921,270	1,275,420	154,560	381,780	35,890,000	43,623,030
New South Wales -	5,000,200	1,169,730	119,630	2,881,390‡	32,924,340	42,095,290
Queensland - -	1,773,150	488,440	15,870	91,670	12,208,470	14,577,600
South Australia -	1,245,800	391,300	26,020	187,490	8,589,280	10,439,890
Western Australia -	247,250	73,500	1,843	2,690	1,345,150	1,670,430
Tasmania - -	610,890	94,000	—	480,780	2,992,830	4,178,500
New Zealand -	2,320,710	533,400	35,450	107,680	15,547,320	18,549,560
Total - -	17,119,260	4,030,790	353,370	4,133,480	109,497,390	135,134,300

* Including Government deposits, which in Victoria amounted to 3,669,736*l.*, in Queensland to 1,010,933*l.*, in South Australia to 205,130*l.*, in Tasmania to 25,769*l.*, and in New Zealand to 577,595*l.*

† Including Government securities, which in New South Wales, amounted to 1,392,873*l.*, in Queensland to 8,344*l.*, in South Australia to 20,400*l.*, in Western Australia to 7,500*l.*, in Tasmania to 206,542*l.*, and in New Zealand to 2,119*l.*

‡ This amount probably includes capital lent by the New South Wales banks to their own branches outside the Colony.

67. It will be noticed that both the bank liabilities and the bank assets are smaller in New South Wales than in Victoria, notwithstanding the fact that in New South Wales the bank assets include the large amount of nearly 3,000,000*l.* as due from other banks, which, in addition to sums due from independent institutions, is said to embrace capital lent to their own branches outside the Colony, the latter being an item which is not considered as forming part of the assets of the banks in the other Colonies.

Liabilities and assets in Victoria and New South Wales compared.

68. Two kinds of savings banks exist in Victoria, the general savings banks, which were first established in 1842, and the post office savings banks, which were established in 1865. The following figures show the number of institutions, the number of depositors having accounts at the last dates of balancing in 1886, and the total and average amount of depositors' balances at such dates:—

Savings banks.

Savings Banks, 1886.

Description of Institution.	Number of Savings Banks.	Number of Depositors.	Amount remaining on Deposit.	
			Total.	Average to each Depositor.
			£	£ *s.* *d.*
Post Office Savings Banks	264	78,328	1,266,957	16 3 6
General Savings Banks -	15	111,031	2,322,959	20 18 5
Total - -	279	189,359	3,589,916	18 19 2

69. In the 15 years, 1872 to 1886, the number of depositors in savings banks has increased two and a half times. For several years prior to 1880 the amount standing to the credit of the depositors had been tolerably uniform, but since then a steady increase has taken place, and by 1886 it had risen to 3½ millions sterling, or more than twice the amount in 1880. In only one year prior to 1885 did the amount exceed 3 millions, viz., in 1882; but this exceptionally large balance was evidently due to money having been temporarily withdrawn from the ordinary banks, in consequence of the bank rate of interest on deposits having fallen to 3 per cent., or 1 per cent. below the rate allowed by the savings banks. During the last two years, the increase has been over 600,000*l.*, or about 12*s.* per head of population. The average amount to each depositor was highest in 1872 and lowest in 1880; the proportion in 1886 (18*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*) was higher than in 1879 and 1880, but was exceeded in all the other years of the period. The

Savings banks, 1872 to 1886.

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following is a statement of the number of depositors and the amount remaining on deposit during the period referred to:—

Savings Banks, 1872 *to* 1886.

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount remaining on Deposit.	
		Total.	Average to each Depositor.
		£	£ s. d.
1872 - - -	52,749	1,405,738	26 13 0
1873 - - -	58,547	1,498,618	25 11 11
1874 - - -	64,014	1,617,301	25 5 3
1875 - - -	65,837	1,469,849	22 6 6
1876 - - -	69,027	1,507,235	21 16 9
1877 - - -	73,245	1,575,305	21 10 2
1878 - - -	76,696	1,510,273	19 13 7
1879 - - -	82,941	1,520,296	18 6 7
1880 - -	92,115	1,661,409	18 0 9
1881 - - -	107,282	2,569,438	23 19 0
1882 - - -	122,584	3,121,246	25 9 3
1883 - - -	136,087	2,818,122	20 14 2
1884 - - -	152,342	2,981,083	19 11 4
1885 - - -	170,014	3,337,018	19 12 7
1886 - - -	189,359	3,589,916	18 19 2

Savings banks in Australasian Colonies.

70. The following is a statement of the number of depositors and their proportion to population, also the total and average amount standing to their credit, in the savings banks of the various Australasian Colonies at the end of 1886:—

Savings Banks in Australasian Colonies, 1886,

(*Including both General and Post Office Savings Banks*).

Colony.	Number of Depositors.		Amount remaining on Deposit.	
	Total.	Per 100 of Population.	Total.	Average to each Depositor.
		Per cent.	£	£ s. d.
Victoria - -	194,631	19·40	3,431,014	17 12 7
New South Wales -	111,944	14·17	3,504,804	31 6 2
Queensland - -	37,559	10·96	1,337,965	35 12 6
South Australia - -	59,945	19·16	1,617,090	26 19 6
Western Australia -	2,176	5·50	29,124	13 17 8
Tasmania - -	21,100	15·38	429,090	20 6 9
New Zealand - -	91,296	15·49	2,133,781	23 7 5
Total - -	518,651	15·14	12,482,868	24 1 4

Rate of interest in Australasian savings banks.

71. In Victoria the rate of interest paid in both descriptions of savings banks is 4 per cent., but the rate paid in the other Australasian Colonies is often higher than in Victoria. Thus in New South Wales, whilst the rate in the post office savings banks is 4 per cent., as in Victoria, that in the general savings banks is from 5 to 6 per cent.; in Queensland, the rate is 4 or 5 per cent., according to the amount deposited; in South Australia, 5 per cent.; in Tasmania the rates are from 4 and 5 per cent. in the general and 3½ per cent. in the post office savings banks; and in New Zealand they are 5 and 4 per cent. respectively. On the other hand, the rate is only 3¾ per cent. in Western Australia.

Building societies.

72. Building societies in Victoria date from an early period in the Colony's history, and much success both to borrowers and investors has attended their operations. Sixty such institutions sent in returns during 1886, as against 62 in 1885, 54 in 1884, 48 in 1882 and 1883, and 49 in 1881. The following are the principal items furnished for the years 1885 and 1886. It should be mentioned that the returns of some of the societies were not perfect:—

Building Societies, 1886.

Number of societies	60
Number of investing numbers	19,907
Number of borrowers	16,250
	£
Paid up capital	2,502,799
Value of landed property	391,698
Subscriptions on investing shares during the year	318,045
Advances under periodical repayments during the year	2,358,729
Repayments by instalments during the year	1,526,221
Working expenses during the year	62,369
Bank overdraft at the end of the year	262,192
Deposits at the end of the year	2,910,792

Wealth of the population.

73. The property left by deceased persons affords an indirect means of ascertaining approximately the wealth of the population, for it may be supposed that the average amount left by each person dying is equivalent to the average amount possessed by each person living.

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The result of such a calculation for the last three quinquennial periods, is as follows :—

Wealth of the Population, 1872 *to* 1886.

Years.	Property of Deceased Persons sworn under.	Total Number of Deaths.	Average Amount left by each Person dying.	Average Number of Persons living.	Total Wealth of the Population.
	£		£		£
1872–1876	11,699,757	63,402	185	776,052	143,569,620
1877–1881	13,752,848	61,552	223	836,677	186,578,971
1882–1886	21,175,139	69,461	305	936,157	285,527,885

Total wealth, and wealth per head.

74. The national wealth is shown in the last column. It will be noticed that this amounted to nearly 144 millions sterling, or 185*l.* per head, in the five years 1872 to 1876; to nearly 187 millions sterling, or 223*l.* per head, in the five years 1877 to 1881; and to nearly 286 millions sterling, or 305*l.* per head, in the five years 1882 to 1886. It should be explained that these figures represent only the property possessed by private individuals, no estimate being made of the value of Crown lands, Government or municipal buildings, churches, hospitals, libraries, museums, mechanics' institutes, State schools, forts, artillery, lighthouses, war vessels, railways, telegraphs, &c.; also that the figures no doubt understate the truth, as a considerable amount of property is taken over by relatives without any declaration of value or issue of probate or letters of administration, and that, in order to reduce as much as possible the amount to be paid as succession duty, the properties are habitually declared at less than their full value.

Imports, exports, and trade.

75. In 1886 the total declared value of Victorian imports was 18,530,575*l.*, and that of the exports was 11,795,321*l.*; the excess of imports over exports was thus 6,735,254*l.*, and the whole value of external trade was 30,325,896*l.*

Imports and exports last two years.

76. The value of imports was higher in 1886 than in 1885 by 485,971*l.*, or by about 3 per cent.; but as compared with the last-named year the value of exports was the subject of a serious falling off amounting to over 3¾ millions sterling (3,756,437*l.*), or by 32 per cent. The value of the total trade was thus less than in the previous year by about 3,270,466*l.*

Imports and exports in latest and former years.

77. The imports in 1886, as indicated by their values, were higher than in any other year of the Colony's history except 1884 and 1882; the exports, however, according to the same standard, were lower than in any year since 1855.

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Imports and exports, the produce of various countries.

78. The value of the imports into Victoria of articles entered as being the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom, of other British dominions, and of foreign states, and the value of the exports from Victoria of articles entered as the produce or manufacture of the same countries and of the Colony itself, also the per-centage of such values to the total values of imports and exports in 1886, will be found in the following table :—

Imports and Exports, the Produce of different Countries, 1886.

Articles the Produce or Manufacture of—	Imports.		Exports.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
	£		£	
Victoria - - -	—	—	9,054,687	76·77
The United Kingdom -	8,741,275	47·17	1,020,218	8·65
Other British possessions -	6,567,403	35·44	1,079,665	9·15
Foreign States - -	3,221,897	17·39	640,751	5·43
Total - -	18,530,575	100·00	11,795,321	100·00

Imports of principal articles.

79. The values of 62 of the principal articles imported in 1886 are as follows:—

Imports, 1886.

	£
Books - - - - -	194,236
Stationery - - - -	104,583
Musical instruments - -	127,917
Watches, clocks, and watchmakers' materials	68,563
Cutlery - - - - -	29,272
Machinery - - - -	166,663
Sewing machines - - - -	51,491
Tools and utensils - - -	39,962
Building materials - - -	160,774
Furniture and upholstery - -	93,779
Drugs and chemicals - - -	104,584
Matches and vestas - - -	48,651
Opium - - - - -	41,651
Paints and colours - - -	64,611
Carpeting and druggeting - -	94,259
Woollens and woollen piece goods -	892,868
Silks - - - - -	312,728

	£
Cottons - - - - -	1,027,674
Linen, piece goods - - -	42,160
Haberdashery - - - -	420,608
Apparel and slops - - -	389,814
Boots and shoes - - - -	105,828
Gloves - - - - -	111,086
Hats, caps, and bonnets - - -	122,377
Hosiery - - - - -	132,192
Bags and sacks (including woolpacks) -	86,638
Butter and cheese - - -	6,758
Fish - - - - -	163,840
Meats—fresh, preserved, and salted -	17,547
Fruit (including currants and raisins) -	205,533
Flour and biscuit - - -	16,429
Grain, wheat - - - -	26,237
„ oats - - - -	76,456
„ other (including malt and rice) -	135,173
Sugar and molasses - - -	853,399
Beer, cider, and perry - - -	260,650
Coffee - - - - -	50,222
Hops - - - - -	23,285
Spirits - - - - -	380,232
Tea - - - - -	668,472
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff - -	291,684
Wine - - - - -	116,606
Candles - - - - -	45,209
Hides, skins, and pelts - - -	129,102
Leather, leather ware, and leathern cloth -	167,618
Wool - - - - -	2,331,599
Paper (including paper bags) - -	250,530
Timber - - - - -	1,170,539
Oil of all kinds - - - -	219,691
Coal - - - - -	510,768
Earthenware, brownware, and chinaware -	105,260
Glass and glass ware - - -	157,788
Gold (exclusive of specie) - -	569,442
Specie, gold - - - -	32,593
„ other - - - -	33,392
Jewellery - - - -	54,310
Iron and steel (exclusive of railway rails, telegraph wire, &c.) - - -	748,602
Nails and screws - - - -	45,006
Live stock - - - -	928,505
Fancy goods - - - -	90,958
Hardware and ironmongery - -	226,204
Oilmen's stores - - - -	30,035
Other articles - - - -	2,355,932
Total imports - -	18,530,575

80. The exports of 41 of the principal articles are in like manner given for 1886.

Exports, 1886.

	£
Books	73,295
Stationery	34,958
Machinery	67,862
Woollens and woollen piece goods	79,751
Apparel and slops	218,012
Boots and shoes	49,260
Butter and cheese	91,322
Meats, fresh and preserved	89,126
„ salted (including hams and bacon)	19,862
Flour and biscuit	392,521
Grain, wheat	166,916
„ oats	6,787
„ other (including malt and rice)	35,093
Potatoes	120,532
Sugar and molasses	144,631
Coffee	23,959
Spirits	85,324
Tea	322,299
Tobacco, cigars, and snuff	111,729
Wine	56,251
Bones and bone dust	10,174
Candles	16,460
Horns and hoofs	1,005
Hides	9,581
Skins and pelts	98,763
Leather, leather ware, and leathern cloth	281,477
Soap	13,745
Tallow	120,900
Wool	4,999,662
Bark	30,782
Hay, straw, and chaff	174,139
Timber	21,336
Oil of all kinds	28,571
Gold (exclusive of specie)	336,874
Specie, gold	1,610,829
„ silver	6,623
Antimony ore, regulus, &c.	35
Copper ore, regulus, &c.	12,104
Tin, tin ore, and black sand	4,080
Live stock	393,516
Hardware and ironmongery	32,734
Other articles	1,402,441
Total exports	11,795,321

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Vessels entered and cleared.

81. The following vessels were entered and cleared at Victorian ports in 1886:—

Vessels Entered and Cleared, 1886.

Nationality.	Vessels Entered.			Vessels Cleared.		
	Number.	Tons.	Men.	Number.	Tons.	Men.
Colonial - - -	1,684	958,833	39,493	1,721	983,295	40,711
British - - -	407	648,026	26,159	382	661,833	24,954
Foreign - - -	216	241,199	8,297	221	242,201	8,243
Total - -	2,307	1,848,058	73,949	2,324	1,887,329	73,908

Postal returns.

82. The following figures show the number of post offices throughout the Colony, and the number of letters, packets, and newspapers which passed through them in the last two years. A satisfactory increase is to be observed in all the items:—

Postal Returns, 1885 *and* 1886.

Year.	Number of Post Offices.	Number despatched and received of			
		Letters.	News-papers.	Packets.	Total.
1885 - - -	1,384	36,061,880	16,277,108	6,489,618	58,828,606
1886 - - -	1,429	38,392,414	17,482,490	6,926,525	62,801,429
Increase -	45	2,330,534	1,205,382	436,907	3,972,823

Post office revenue and expenditure.

83. The electric telegraphs being incorporated with the post office, the expenditure accounts of the two departments are combined. The revenue accounts are, however, kept separate. The following are the figures of revenue and expenditure in the last two years:—

Post and Telegraph Revenue and Expenditure, 1885 *and* 1886.

Year.	Net Revenue of the			Expenditure of the Post and Telegraph Offices.
	Post Office.	Electric Telegraphs.	Total.	
	£	£	£	£
1885 - -	290,838	87,802	378,640	488,067
1886 - -	308,643	93,490	402,133	514,398
Increase -	17,805	5,688	23,493	26,331

VICTORIA.

Electric telegraph.

84. Telegraphic communication exists in Victoria between 420 stations within her own borders. Her lines are connected besides with the lines of New South Wales, and, by means of them, with Queensland and New Zealand; also with the lines of South Australia, and, by their means, with Western Australia, the Eastern Archipelago, Asia, Europe, and America; also with a submarine cable to Tasmania. During 1886 the lines were extended by 45 miles, and the length of wire was added to by 494 miles; a very considerable increase also occurred in the number of telegrams consequent on a reduction of the rates in 1885, the total increase since 1885 being no less than 71 per cent. The number of stations, the length of lines and wire, and the amount of business done in the last two years are given in the following table:—

Electric Telegraphs, 1885 *and* 1886.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Number of Miles of		Number of Telegrams.		
		Line (poles).	Wire.	Paid.	Unpaid.	Total.
1885 - -	411	3,949	9,617	1,544,422	90,244	1,634,666
1886 - -	420	4,094	10,111	1,938,049	85,809	2,023,858
Increase -	9	145	494	393,627	—	389,192
Decrease -	—	—	—	—	4,435	—

Miles open and travelled.

85. By the following statement of the number of miles open and the number of train miles travelled, and of the passengers and goods carried during the financial years 1885–6 and 1886–7, it is shown that a considerable increase took place in all the items, the train mileage and goods traffic having increased by about 10 per cent., and the passengers carried by 16 per cent. It must be borne in mind that in both years only a portion of the extent set down as open was so during the whole year.

Railways.—Miles Open and Travelled, and Passengers and Goods Carried, 1885–6 *and* 1886–7.

Year.	Extent Opened.	Train Mileage.	Passengers.	Goods and Live Stock.
	Miles.	Miles.	No.	Tons.
1885–6 - - -	1,742¾	7,256,703	42,511,014	2,724,095
1886–7 - - -	1,880	7,991,378	49,219,857	2,972,761
Increase - -	137¼	734,675	6,708,843	248,666

VICTORIA.

Receipts and working expenses.

86. The following were the railway receipts and working expenses during the last two financial years:—

Railways.—Receipts and Working Expenses, 1886 *and* 1887.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.				Working Expenses.	Net Income.	Proportion of Working Expenses to Receipts.
	Passenger Fares.	Freight on Goods and Live Stock.	Sundries.	Total.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	Per Cent
1886 -	1,014,424	1,141,578	173,124	2,329,126	1,310,537	1,018,589	56·26
1887 -	1,078,693	1,193,582	180,803	2,453,078	1,427,116	1,025,962	58·18
Increase -	64,269	52,004	7,679	123,952	116,579	7,373	1·92

Wages.

87. The following table contains a statement of the average rates of wages paid in respect to engagements made in Melbourne in 1886. It has been compiled from statements obtained from the best authorities, and is believed to be fairly representative of a state of affairs which must always be subject to some fluctuations. Throughout Victoria the recognised working day for artisans and general labourers is eight hours:—

Wages in Melbourne.

Description of Labour.	1886.
Ploughmen - - - - - per week, and found	20*s.* to 25*s.*
Farm labourers - - - - „ „	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Shearers - - - - per 100 sheep shorn, and found	12*s.* to 15*s.*
Married couples - - per annum, with board and lodging	60*l.* to 90*l.*
Boys - - - - „ „	15*s.* to 20*s.*
Masons - - - - - - per day	10*s.* to 12*s.*
Bricklayers - - - - - - „	„
Plasterers - - - - - - - „	„
Carpenters - - - - - - - „	„
Painters and glaziers - - - - - - „	8*s.* to 10*s.*
Plumbers - - - - - - - „	10*s.*
Blacksmiths - - - - - - - „	6*s.* to 10*s.*
Tinsmiths - - - - - - - per week	40*s.* to 60*s.*
Boot and shoe makers - - - - - - „	35*s.* to 50*s.*
Bakers - - - - - - - - „	50*s.* to 60*s.*
Butchers - - - - - - - - „	30*s.* to 50*s.*
Miners - - - - - - - - „	40*s.* to 80*s.*
General labourers - - - - - - per day	6*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.*
Female cooks - - - per annum, with board and lodging	40*l.* to 75*l.*
Laundresses - - - „ „	35*l.* to 52*l.*
Housemaids - - - „ „	25*l.* to 40*l.*
Nursemaids - - - „ „	20*l.* to 40*l.*
Dairymaids - - - „ „	30*l.* to 35*l.*
General servants - - „ „	„
Girls - - - - „ „	13*l.* to 20*l.*

88. Prices were quoted as follows:—In country districts the cost of groceries, tobacco, imported wines, coal, &c. is naturally somewhat higher than in Melbourne, and that of agricultural and grazing produce, firewood, &c. naturally somewhat lower:— Prices.

Retail Prices in Melbourne.

Articles.		1887.
Flour	per lb.	1¼*d.* to 1¾*d.*
Bread	per 4 lb. loaf	5*d.* to 6*d.*
Beef	per lb.	4*d.* to 10*d.*
Mutton	„	1½*d.* to 5*d.*
Veal	„	5*d.* to 8*d.*
Pork	„	6*d.* to 9*d.*
Lamb	per quarter	2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*
Butter, fresh	per lb.	1*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.*
Cheese	„	5*d.* to 1*s.*
Milk	per quart	5*d.* to 6*d.*
Bacon	per lb.	8*d.* to 1*s.*
Ham	„	10*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.*
Eggs	per doz.	1*s.* to 2*s.* 4*d.*
Potatoes	per cwt.	2*l.* 15*s.* to 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*
Onions, dried	„	4*s.*6*d.*to 7*s.*6*d.*
Tea	per lb.	1*s.*6*d.*to 2*s.*6*d.*
Coffee	„	1*s.*3*d.*to 1*s.*6*d.*
Sugar	„	2½*d.* to 3*d.*
Rice	„	3*d.* to 4*d.*
Soap	„	3*d.* to 4*d.*
Salt	„	1*d.*
Coals	per ton	27*s.* to 38*s.*
Firewood	„	10*s.* to 14*s.* 6*d.*
Rent of Labourers' Cottages	per week	6*s.* to 10*s.*

For complete information on many points which have been merely touched upon, and on others which are not even mentioned, in this digest, the reader is referred to the "Victorian Year Book,* 1886–7."

(Signed) HENRY HEYLYN HAYTER.

* This is an official publication by the Government Statist, published annually, and may be obtained from the Government printer, Melbourne, the Agent General of Victoria, 8, Victoria. Chambers, Westminster, or Trübner and Co., 57 and 59, Ludgate Hill, London.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

REPORTS

ON

BLUE BOOKS FOR 1886.

No. 1. VIRGIN ISLANDS.

„ 2. MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES, AND RODRIGUES.

„ 3. GAMBIA.

(*In continuation of* [C.—5239] *September* 1887.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1888.

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1888.

[C.—5249.]

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No. 1.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

[For reference to previous Reports, *see* 1885 [C.—4904]; 1884 [C.—4583]; 1883 [C.—4193]; 1882 [C.—3794]; 1881 [C.—3642]; 1880 [C.—3094].]

Administrator NEALE PORTER to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Antigua,
September 27, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Virgin Islands for the year 1886, with the President's report thereon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NEALE PORTER,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of the VIRGIN ISLANDS for 1886.

1. *Taxes, Duties, &c.*

No change in these sources of revenue was made during the year. The amount of taxes collected was slightly in excess of that of the previous year, the difference being in the horse tax, which in 1886 realised more than double the amount paid in 1885.

It is much to be regretted that the three taxes—house, land, and horse—none of which are immoderate, should continue to be so irregularly paid. The result is that the arrears of taxes placed in the hands of the provost marshal for collection have amounted at the end of 1886 to a sum of 329*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, extending over a period of 10 years.

A thorough revision of the laws regulating the assessment and collection of these taxes would be productive of beneficial results to the Presidency.

It is also a matter for consideration whether the customs tariff, which has existed in its present state with but slight alteration for a period of 20 years might not with advantage be revised.

2. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

Return of Revenue Receipts in each Year from 1882 *to* 1886:

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,642 18 8	1,708 3 7	1,859 13 8	1,752 15 3	1,447 11 11

o 53290. Wt. 18427.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Return of Revenue Receipts in each Year from 1882 *to* 1886, *showing the Amounts collected under the Principal Heads.*

—	Customs.	Licenses.	Taxes.	Incidental.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1882 - - -	1,096 1 4	112 11 8	313 19 7	120 6 1	1,642 18 8
1883 - - -	1,098 18 11	173 17 4	222 15 7	212 11 9	1,708 3 7
1884 - - -	1,247 14 5	188 3 0	132 17 4	290 18 11	1,859 13 8
1885 - - -	1,095 1 2	178 0 0	201 6 5	278 7 8	1,752 15 3
1886 - - -	823 8 6	169 17 1	230 0 10	224 5 6	1,447 11 11

From the above returns it will be seen that the revenue for 1886 is considerably lower than that for any of the five years embraced. It is also 381*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* below the sum estimated. The chief falling off is in the imports, the duty on which amounted to only 351*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* against 605*l.* 11*s.* in 1885 and 722*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* in 1884. This is attributable in a measure to the season having been an exceptionally good one for ground provisions on which the people rely chiefly for their support, there was consequently less necessity for the importation of food supplies. For the same reason the export in cattle was slacker.

There is no doubt also that the prevalence of smuggling is a not inconsiderable cause of the small amount of revenue derived from this source. As an instance I would quote the Island of Jost van Dykes, which supports a population of some 200 souls by whom the import duty paid in the two years 1885 and 1886, according to a return furnished from the office at West End, amounted in all to 2*l.* 2*s.* 6½*d.*

Having in view the numerous islands and islets of which this Presidency is made up, the bays and creeks with which they abound, and the very narrow resources at the disposal of the Government, it can never be possible to effectually prevent smuggling. If, however, the support of the leading men of the community could be enlisted, and they could be induced to actively discountenance this practice, a better state of things would gradually be brought about.

It is to this end that the efforts of the Government should be directed.

The increase in the amount of taxes is due to the collection of a proportion of arrears by the treasurer, which should not have properly been placed under this head.

The chief items of incidental revenue are fines and fees 62*l.* 12*s.* and arrears of taxes 46*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* Looking to the large amount of the aggregate sum outstanding, this last item is certainly smaller than it ought to be. More active steps have, however, been taken during the present year.

The increase in the miscellaneous receipts is owing to the duty levied on goods from a wreck which took place at Anegada.

Return of Annual Expenditure from 1882 *to* 1886.

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,613 6 9	1,726 12 7	1,874 1 1	1,925 12 3	1,676 0 3

Although, as shown by the above return, the expenditure was lower than in any of the three preceding years, it exceeded the revenue by a sum of 228*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and was 32*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* above the estimate.

The chief item is one of 288*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* arrears paid to the Federal Government. This amount includes a sum of 26*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* for the maintenance of lunatics at Antigua, which should properly have come under another head. In 1885 arrears to the amount of 557*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* were paid off. 53*l.* 16*s.* was expended in repairs to public buildings.

The other items of expenditure appear to be usual and call for no comment.

3. *Public Debt.*

The Presidency has no public debt. Its liabilities, however, on the 31st December 1886 are shown in the following return :—

Return of Assets and Liabilities of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands on the 31*st December* 1886.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Cash in hand - -	62 12 11	Federal contribution -	194 10 11
Excess of liabilities -	157 9 4	Prisoners and lunatics -	25 7 6
		Crown Agents - -	3 10
	£220 2 3		£220 2 3

4. *Public Works.*

Repairs to the gaol and poorhouse were undertaken and completed during the year at a total cost of 53*l.* 16*s.* These two buildings are now in a fairly satisfactory condition.

It is unfortunately out of the power of the Government to contribute to the maintenance of the roads, the state of which, owing to the gradual decrease of statute labour available for their repair, is most unsatisfactory.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

5. *Legislation.*

Only two Ordinances were passed during the year, a Supplementary Supply Ordinance and an Ordinance for the better preservation of discipline in Her Majesty's ships-of-war while in the Presidency.

6. *Councils and Assemblies.*

There are no changes to record under this head.

7. *Civil Establishment.*

Mr. J. Fonseco was appointed waywarden for Tortola and bailiff of the Supreme Court in succession to Mr. H. S. Evans, deceased. No other change took place.

8. *Population and Vital Statistics.*

The decrease of the population is gradual but constant. Colon St. Domingo, and Haiti attract a large proportion of the young men. Many of them do not altogether lose touch of their native place and would gladly return to work there if work were obtainable. Under the existing condition of things, however, there is little prospect of such work being forthcoming and the depletion must thus continue.

The following table shows the number of births, marriages, and deaths registered in the various districts during the year. The totals of all are considerably below those of 1885 :—

Districts.		Births.		Marriages.	Deaths.
		Legitimate.	Illegitimate.		
A	Virgin Gorda - - -	22	12	Nil.	11
B	Anegada - - -	27	5	2	6
C	Beef Island, Buck Island, East End (Tortola) - -	10	3	4	11
D	Tortola, Salt Island, Peter's Island - - -	41	40	11	51
E	West End (Tortola), Thatch Island, Frenchman's Cay -	8	14	2	14
F	Jost van Dykes - - -	5	7	Nil.	9
		113	81	19	102

9. *Public Health.*

I am indebted to the Hon. Dr. Foreman, medical officer, for the following remarks on this subject which are worthy of attention:—

"The Virgin Islands and especially Tortola situate in 18° 27′ N. latitude and 64° 39′ W. longitude are certainly of the healthiest in the West Indian Islands. With the exception of a few mild cases of whooping cough which occurred at the beginning of this year, no infectious disease has been known since the year 1858, when small-pox was imported from the neighbouring island of St. Thomas. The ordinary diseases are intermittent fever of a mild type and phthisis, which is so common among the black and affect generally those inhabiting the valleys. Although the people of these islands live on a very poor diet and perfectly regardless of any sanitary conditions, the public health is excellent. It is true that our annual rate of mortality, 18 or 19 per thousand, may not be lower than in some of the other islands, but it is accounted for by the great distance which separates the Islands of Anegada, Virgin Gorda, and Jost van Dykes from the only medical officer, who resides in Tortola and has to attend to a population of about 5,500 inhabitants scattered over a dozen different islands. A certain number of them must of necessity be without medical attendance during their illness. No doubt the above death-rate would be greatly diminished if the people were made to understand how to cure their sick and to give them suitable nourishment.

"Tortola is composed mostly of hills which rise to a height of nearly 1,800 feet above the level of the sea; but, unlike Dominica and St. Lucia, they are not covered with thick forests, therefore there is scarcely any dampness, and upon the hills generally inhabited and partly cultivated, the air is perfectly dry and pure. The temperature also is cooler than in most of the other West Indian Islands. Unfortunately Tortola is but very little known from the want of steam communication; otherwise it might be converted into a health resort of the greatest utility."

10. *Ecclesiastical.*

The Wesleyans are by far the more important religious body in the Virgin Islands and number probably four fifths of the total population. They support chapels at Roadtown at the East and West End of Tortola, and at Virgin Gorda, Anegada, Jost van Dykes, and Peter Island. The mission derives its funds almost entirely from the contributions of the people themselves, and the amount subscribed speaks well for their organisation and devotedness.

The Church of England, besides the parish church at Roadtown, possesses two chapels in Tortola and one at Virgin Gorda. The members are as a rule drawn from the poorer portion of the inhabitants and the attendances are small.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

11. *Education.*

80*l.* per annum is voted by the Legislature in aid of education in the Presidency. This sum is apportioned among the schools by the Inspector General of Schools for the Leeward Islands on the results of the annual examinations held by him.

Two schools in Tortola, one in Virgin Gorda, and one in Anegada are classified and receive grants-in-aid. Five other schools were examined but failed to attain to class-rank.

12. *Coins.*

English money is scarcely ever seen, the coin in circulation being Mexican and Danish silver and Danish copper. Mexican money, which at St. Thomas, from whence it is imported, is at a discount of 20 to 25 per cent., is still received at the Treasury here at the rate of 4*s.* to the dollar. It is superfluous to dwell upon the effect of this highly anomalous and undesirable state of things.

The local currency or "cutmoney" is a curious feature. It consists of old Spanish dollars cut into halves, quarters, and eighths, roughly stamped with the word Tortola, and worth respectively 2*s.* 0¾*d.*, 1*s.*, and 6*d.*, and a number of ancient and much-worn Spanish coins, the distinguishing marks on which are difficult to decipher, and which are worth variously 1*s.*, 10*d.*, 9*d.*, 6*d.*, 4½*d.*, 3*d.*, and 2¼*d.* There are also in circulation some 10*l.* worth of copper coins, which go by the name of "Dogs," and pass current among the people at the rate of ¾*d.* each. These coins are French, struck in the reign of Louis XVI. for the Colony of Cayenne.

13. *Imports and Exports.*

Return showing the Value in sterling of the yearly Imports for the Years 1882 *to* 1886.

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
£ 5,982	£ 7,302	£ 7,239	£ 5,846	£ 3,603

These consist chiefly of food, clothing, and spirits brought in in small quantities at a time and almost exclusively from the Islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John's.

The falling off in 1886 is chiefly in flour and cornmeal, of which 810¼ and 92 barrels respectively paid duty, as against 1,483¼ and 323⅛ in 1885 and 1,561 and 192¾ in 1884. Lumber and shingles and spars are admitted free of duty and were imported to the value of 434*l.* as against 613*l.* in 1885 and 836*l.* in 1884.

There are no imports from the United Kingdom.

Return showing the Value in sterling of the yearly Exports for the Years 1882 *to* 1886.

1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
£ 4,966	£ 5,025	£ Over 5,000	£ 4,915	£ 4,103

The chief articles of export and their respective total values were:—

	£
Live stock - - - -	3,456
Charcoal - - - -	376
Potatoes - - - -	114
Cotton - - - -	13
Firewood - - - -	30
Hardwood - - - -	18
Salt - - - - -	43
Sugar - - - -	14
Sugar cane - - - -	18
	£4,082

The following return shows the various kinds of live stock and the number of each exported in each of the three last years:—

——	1884.	1885.	1886.
Cattle - - -	481	440	348
Calves - - -	741	673	649
Goats - - -	1,103	1,203	800
Sheep - - -	368	307	266
Pigs - - -	898	837	806
Horses - - -	21	7	7
Mules - - -	2	1	1

The whole of these go to the Danish Islands. The withdrawal of the English steamers from St. Thomas has occasioned a heavy fall in prices. Cattle which would at one time fetch from $35 to $45 now realise only between $20 and $30, which involves a serious loss to the people of these islands, who have no other market, and the fact accounts for the decrease in number of the live stock exported. It also influences considerably the return of imports.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

14. *Shipping.*

1,710 vessels were entered during the year with a total tonnage of 5,083. Of these 421 entered at the Road Town office and 1,289 at the office at West End. All but one were from the Danish West Indies. The total number of vessels cleared was 1,779 with a tonnage of 5,711. Of these 1,743 were bound to the Danish Islands and 36 to the British Colonies. 395 cleared at Road Town and 1,384 at West End.

The only steamer that touched here was the American s.s. "Trinidad," having on board his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Lord Gormanston, and suite, who paid a visit extending over four days.

No man-of-war has visited the Presidency for the last two years.

15. *Agriculture.*

The sugar cane continues to be grown to a small extent in the valleys of Tortola; such sugar as is made being sold and consumed locally. The ground is worked for the most part on the métairie system.

A good quality of canes is reaped, the result of the natural richness and fertility of the soil rather than of the industry of the cultivators.

By far the greater quantity are rattoons of many years' standing.

Canes are also grown in small patches by the peasantry, being a favourite article of food in the raw state.

Provision grounds are plentiful. They are made chiefly on the mountain sides and for the most part in terraces built up with considerable ingenuity. In good seasons they afford a plentiful crop of yams, sweet potatoes, cassada, and other kindred production.

The usual tropical fruits abound; guavas, mangoes, soursops, custard apples, avoado pears, mammees, grow in numbers along the roadsides, and quantities are used to feed the pigs, of which every household possesses one or more.

The cultivation of cotton has died out entirely. A very small quantity is still exported from the Islands of Virgin Gorda and Anegada, but this is wild cotton. Guinea grass grows plentifully on the hill sides. The natural grass is also rich and abundant, and affords excellent pasture for cattle and other stock, of which the number is considerable.

The rate of wages for domestice service is low. Agricultural labourers are paid from 9*d.* to a 1*s.* per diem, but they are not easy to obtain.

Provisions are dear, with the exception of milk and butter, which are plentiful, of excellent quality, and very moderate in price. Meat is only obtainable very occasionally, the intended slaughter of an animal being previously announced through the town by a bell-man.

16. *Manufactures, Mines, &c.*

All the boats belonging to the islanders are native made; many of the St. Thomas bumboats are also made here. A few straw hats of moderate quality are turned out at Virgin Gorda. There are no manufactures other than these.

The mines in Virgin Gorda, as has been reported for several successive years, still remain unworked. The gentleman who has purchased so large a quantity of land there has an agent here and appears to still take an interest in the place, but there are no practical results. The existing low price of copper is given as the reason for the delay.

There is no doubt that the re-opening of these mines would considerably benefit the people of the Presidency, and they make frequent inquiries on the subject.

The fishing trade, which was at one time lucrative and in which many boats were engaged, has suffered much from the general fall in prices at St. Thomas. A large quantity of fish, however, with which the waters round these islands abound is annually taken and disposed of there.

17. *Prisons.*

Twenty-one persons were committed to prison during the year, of which number 20 were for purposes of penal imprisonment; of the sentences, however, only one was for over three months. One lunatic was kept in the gaol and treated by the medical officer.

18. *Criminal Statistics.*

There were 118 cases before the magistrate court, of which 61 were dismissed. The majority were of a very minor character, 40 being for neglect to perform statute labour on the roads.

There were no cases for the Supreme Court and no sitting was consequently held.

In the Summary Jurisdiction Court before the district magistrate sitting as deputy judge there were 11 cases, seven for damage to property, chiefly by cattle, three for assault, and one for petty debt.

The small amount of crime in the Presidency is highly creditable to the people when it is considered that there are but two paid police constables on the establishment, and both of these resident in Roadtown.

It must also not be forgotten that in none of the islands except Tortola is there even a justice of the peace.

The small number of civil cases is attributable partly to the high costs which are exacted, and partly to the fact that the rules of the Wesleyan Society forbid recourse to the law without previous reference to the minister and the district meeting. Many differences are thus settled outside to the mutual advantage of the Government and the people.

19. *Hospitals.*

A small building under the charge of a matron serves as a hospital and almshouse for the Presidency.

Repairs were executed during the year, and the house is now in fairly good condition and suffices for the wants of the place. The daily average of inmates was five males and seven females, the longest time for which anyone has stayed being 13 years. There were six deaths, three being from old age and two from heart disease. The building is visited daily by the medical officer.

The disease of "yaws," which afflicts the inhabitants of so many of the other West Indian Islands, has fortunately no existence here.

20. *Lunatic Asylum.*

There is no lunatic asylum. Harmless patients are admitted into the gaol and treated there by the medical officer. Those who display dangerous propensities are sent to the asylum at Antigua.

21. *Charitable Institutions.*

Beyond the almshouses there is no other institution. About 50*l.* per annum is expended by the Government in outdoor relief. The Imperial Treasury pays a sum of 4*s.* 6*d.* per head weekly to the few remaining liberated Africans, seven in number, all old women.

22. *Meteorological Observations.*

It is to be regretted that there are no appliances for obtaining the information required under this head.

23. *General Remarks.*

The Virgin Islands is aptly described in a recent work containing brief notices of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions as "a colony about which there is little popular interest and much "less knowledge": they are also said to "convey a complete idea "of solitude and out-of-the-world silence." It is much to be regretted that this description should be so true.

The main reason is the fact that the steamers of the Royal Mail Company do not call here, but deliver the Tortola mails at St. Thomas, from whence they are conveyed by a small schooner hired by the Government for this service and for revenue purposes.

The accommodation offered by this vessel is certainly not such as to attract visitors. There is no doubt that were communication by steam established, many persons from the Danish Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix would annually visit Tortola for purposes of pleasure or to recruit their health who are now deterred from doing so by the discomforts of the passage.

The increased facilities for communication would also allow of greater attention being paid to the Presidency from head-quarters.

As the islands become better known it is conceivable that some small amount of capital might find its way in, which can never be so long as the only means of connexion is what it is at present.

Looking to the fact that the steamers now pass the islands only some twelve miles off on their way from St. Kitts to St. Thomas, and that their calling in here would mean a delay of at most two or two and a half hours, it is a matter for consideration whether some steps might not possibly be taken with a view of bringing about at least a monthly call.

The soil is exceedingly fertile and productive. The hill-tops of Tortola are admirably adapted to the extensive rearing of horses, cattle, and other live stock, and if a few agriculturists from home could but find their way here they would scarcely fail to earn a comfortable livelihood. Fruit growing might be taken up as a supplementary industry.

For healthiness of climate the Virgin Islands are only equalled in the West Indies, and not surpassed, by the Turks and Caicos and the Bahamas, while they offer far greater attractions in the way of scenery and capabilities for enjoyment.

If it be at any time desired to establish a sanatorium for the troops whom it is proposed to station at St. Lucia, the advantages offered by this healthy locality might be taken into consideration.

It has occurred to me that search might possibly reveal the existence of sponge-beds in the waters round the Island of Anegada, which resembles in many respects the Bahamas Cays. Such a search could not, however, be organised without assistance from outside.

The people of the islands in physique, manners, and natural intelligence compare very favourably with their brethren in other parts of the West Indies, and they are in many respects in better circumstances.

The greater number of them own some small portion of land and stock; they work for themselves, when and as they please, and what their labour produces is their own; they are consequently much more independent than the hired labourers of other islands. They are not rich, but are in most cases far removed from a condition of poverty; they are able to keep a few small comforts in their houses, to dress well on the Sunday, to give their small quota to their Church, and generally to live an honest and respectable life. It is only among the townspeople who own no land, and in cases of old age or desertion, that real, harsh poverty and, in some cases, destitution is present. In their bearing they are as a rule frank and respectful, and in my wanderings through the mountains and various hamlets I have met with much civility and a most refreshing absence of either servility or bumptiousness.

The Government is not popular and does not possess the confidence of the people. This is partly owing to the small amount of attention bestowed on them, the high duties payable on certain

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

articles, particularly breadstuffs, and the fact that they do not realise what becomes of the money they pay, and in a certain degree to local influences.

I think the Virgin Islanders would repay a little trouble taken with them, and that efforts should be made to eradicate this feeling.

Under existing circumstances, however, and with the resources at command such as they are, the task is an uphill one.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,
President.

No. 2.

MAURITIUS.

[For reference to previous Reports, *see* 1885 [C.—5071]; 1884 [C.—4904]; 1883 [C.—4842 and C.—4404]; 1882 [C.—4015]; 1881 [C.—3642]; 1880 [C.—3218].]

Administrator FLEMING to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Mauritius,
October 20, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit my Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1886.

2. The usual summary of the Blue Book and of the different administration Reports, compiled by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. Beyts, C.M.G., was sent in a previous Despatch.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of the Colony for 1886 was Rs. 7,229,973, being Rs. 79,259 less than that of 1885.

The expenditure in 1886 was Rs. 8,390,054, being Rs. 1,004 less than in the previous year.

It is doubtless a matter for regret that since the year 1882 there has been a considerable decrease in revenue, while there has been a corresponding increase in expenditure.

In 1882 there was a surplus of revenue amounting to Rs. 1,271,528. In the following year the surplus was only Rs. 513,311. Since then there has been no surplus, but, on the contrary, an excess in expenditure. In 1884 the expenditure exceeded the revenue by Rs. 552,814, in 1885 by Rs. 1,080,825, and in 1886 Rs. 1,160,081.

4. There can be little doubt that what has chiefly contributed to the Colony's financial depression during the last few years has been the low price of sugar. When a country like Mauritius has, so to say, but one staple product, and when the price of such product falls, as sugar has recently done, it is by no means surprising that the revenue of the country should suffer; indeed, it could not be otherwise. But it does not follow that the financial condition of this Island is never to improve. The question of sugar bounties, which, as remarked by Sir Samuel Griffith at the recent Colonial Conference, governs the price of sugar all the world over, is now engaging public attention, and it may be solved in such a manner as to cause sugar to rise in value: again, if any disease was to attack the beet-root cane-sugar would naturally go up.

But it would no doubt be well for Mauritius not to trust too implicitly on sugar again fetching such prices as it has done in the past, and every encouragement should, in my opinion, be given to the cultivation of minor industries. Rice is now grown in the

MAURITIUS.

Colony to some extent; vanilla, a very valuable plant, can also be produced, and I believe that if care and attention were given to the cultivation of other industries, such as tobacco and coffee much good might be done in this direction.

6. It is satisfactory to find that the expenditure for 1886 was somewhat less than in the previous year. When there is a tendency for the revenue of a country to diminish, such as is now the case in Mauritius, every attempt should be made to reduce public expenditure. The Government of this Colony is quite alive to this fact, and what can be is being done to equalise, so far as is possible, the revenue and expenditure for the future.

7. But while the causes to which I have alluded are such as must affect Mauritius in common with other sugar-producing countries, it is only fair to remark that, in so far as this Colony is concerned, there have been exceptional reasons of late which have led to heavy disbursements.

In a report which was drawn up by a committee appointed to consider the financial state of the Colony in May last it was remarked "that the difficulties connected with the present "financial position of the Colony are chiefly due to the expendi- "ture of about Rs. 2,600,000 in purchases of land for reafforesta- "tion purposes during the last five years, during which period the "aggregate ordinary revenue has more than sufficed to cover the "aggregate ordinary expenditure."

8. Excluding specie and bullion, the value of imports in 1886 was estimated at Rs. 23,946,967, being Rs. 3,738,704 more than that in the previous year.

The exports, excluding specie and bullion, in 1886 were valued at Rs. 32,383,399, being less than the value of those in 1885 by Rs. 1,732,247.

9. As regards shipping, there was during the year 1886 an increase by 47,645 tons inwards and 35,513 outwards over the year 1885.

Population and Vital Statistics.

10. The general population of the Colony was estimated to be, on the 31st December 1886, 116,424, the Indian population 251,721, making altogether a population of 368,145. This was less than the estimated population of 1885 by 2,259. The Chinese residents were reckoned at 4,004, but there has of late been an outflow of Chinese from the Island. In 1886 the departures exceeded the arrivals by 443.

Of the 368,145 persons 208,401 were males and 159,744 females. It is satisfactory to find that the Indian female population is rapidly increasing.

11. The number of marriages registered in 1886 was 1,480. The religion of the parties married was as follows: 3 Buddists, 112 Protestants, 224 Mahometans, 1,020 Hindoos, and 1,601 Roman Catholics. The marriage rate for the year was 13·8 per 1,000 in the general and 5·4 in the Indian population. The age

at which most men marry is from 25 to 30, and that at which the women generally marry is from 21 to 25. The large number of marriages about these ages is attributed by the Registrar General, Mr. Dick, to the removal of one of the restrictions imposed by law, viz., the consent of parents or guardians.

12. There were 12 divorces pronounced in 1886, 11 being applied for by the wife and one by the husband.

13. There were 13,324 births registered, the number of male children born being 6,822, the number of female 6,502, the proportion of females to males being 100 to 105. The proportion of illegitimate births, although somewhat less than in previous years, was still large, being 53·7 to the whole number; it was greater among the Indians than among the general population.

14. The mortality of the year was satisfactory. The death rate was 28·8 per thousand, the average death rate for the five years 1882–1886 being 32·47.

The death rate is, however, higher than that of any European country except Hungary.

It is a somewhat curious fact that the mortality of the Island in 1886 was greater during the cool season than during the warmer months. The hottest and apparently the most trying period of the year is from December to April, and yet we find the mortality to be heaviest in May and June, and lowest in December and January.

The deaths from fever continue much the same as they have been for the last 10 years. In 1877 the proportion of deaths from fever to the total number was 55·9 per cent., in 1886 55·3 per cent.: leprosy also causes a considerable number of deaths; in 1877 there were 85 and in 1886 79 from this disease.

Immigration and Labour.

15. During the past year 746 immigrants arrived in the Colony, all from Madras, consisting of 466 men, 174 women, 45 boys, and 61 girls. One man died on the voyage out, the others arrived in good condition. It is worthy of remark that about one seventh of those who have immigrated from India to Mauritius during the last four years had previously been in the Colony.

16. During the year 1886 there was a considerable increase of female labourers. This is probably caused, as mentioned in the report of the Protector of Immigrants, Mr. Trotter, by the financial difficulties which have lately attended the cultivation of sugar estates. Female labourers do not work as efficiently as male, but they are paid lower wages.

17. There has been during recent years a considerable increase in the number of creole Indians and a corresponding decrease of Indian immigrants employed on estates.

18. The number of complaints brought by labourers against their employers during 1886 compares favourably with that of the preceding years.

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There was no conviction during the year for non-delivery of rations, and only seven complaints were entered on that account.

19. The Protector of Immigrants has, on more than one occasion, alluded to the importance of providing elementary instruction for the Indian population. The subject is one to which I have lately drawn the attention of the Council of Education, and I trust that something effectual may be done in this direction before long.

20. The number of immigrants that left the colony during the past year was 2,320.

Poor Law.

21. The expenditure on poor relief in 1886 was Rs. 29,990, being a slight increase on the amount expended during the previous year.

22. During the course of last year a Commission was appointed by Sir John Pope Hennessy "to inquire into the working of the "Poor Law, and to suggest such changes as in their opinion "would be likely to improve its operation." The Commission issued a well-considered and careful report in the month of August last.

23. The Commission find that nearly one half of the amount spent on poor relief is expended on pauper lunatics and pauper lepers. They recommend that very careful inquiry should be made before it is decided that an alleged pauper lunatic should really be treated as such, for they evidently consider that many have been treated as pauper lunatics, the cost of whose maintenance should not have been thrown upon the public.

They recommend that pauper lepers should not receive out-door relief, but should be bound to remain in an asylum. I may state that I have lately caused to be brought into operation a law which will go far to carry out this recommendation of the Commission. In 1882 an Ordinance was passed to provide for the due retention of pauper lepers, but up to a short time ago this Ordinance, No. 39 of 1882, had not been proclaimed.

24. With regard to paupers generally the Commission strongly recommend that stringent inquiries be made as to how far any particular case is or is not properly chargeable to the public funds. The Commission offer some valuable suggestions with regard to out-door relief. They find that it has been given under circumstances not intended by law, and they recommend that, inasmuch as this mode of relief is particularly liable to abuse, there should be constant watchfulness on the part of those who grant it.

25. I trust that much good may ensue from the recommendations of this Commission, more especially so as at the present time there is unquestionably much poverty in the Island, and the number of those who have legitimate claims on poor relief is daily increasing.

Education.

26. The Royal College in Port Louis is in a satisfactory condition. The rector in his annual report testified to its general progress during the past year, as attested by the annual examination, and added that "the present condition of the college, so "far at least as regards the efficiency of its staff, the extension of "its accommodation, the increasing number of its scholars, and "the success of its former students, is full of promise and encouragement."

27. The higher education of girls is a subject to which I have endeavoured to call attention. I lately submitted it to the Council of Education for their consideration, and I hope they will seriously entertain it and that some step may be taken to deal with it effectively.

28. As regards primary education, there were, during the year 1886, 140 schools opened, 65 Government schools and 75 aided schools. The expenditure on the Government schools was Rs. 127,522, being Rs. 896 more than in the year 1885.

The aided schools cost Rs. 93,125, being an increase of Rs. 5,755 over their cost in the previous year. The provisions of the estimates were, unfortunately, exceeded for these schools by Rs. 8,125.

The aided schools are divided into Roman Catholic, of which there are 50; Church of England, of which there are 22; Presbyterian, of which there are 3. The Roman Catholic aided schools are under the immediate control of a special inspector, the Superintendent of Schools visiting them occasionally but not taking any part in examining them nor in the control of the annual examinations, on which the result grants are paid.

It appears that both the Government schools and the aided schools are in a satisfactory state, and that the number of scholars, their attendance, and proficiency continue to improve. The average number of scholars on the roll in the Government schools was, during the year, 8,026, in the aided schools 7,766, being 1,245 more than in 1885.

Judicial Statistics and Gaols.

29. There is nothing to call for any particular comment as regards these statistics. The convictions in the Supreme and Inferior Courts were somewhat greater than in the previous year, although the number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates was less in 1886 than in any of the four previous years. There were three men tried for murder during the year, but only one was found guilty, and in his case it was not considered necessary to carry out the extreme penalty of the law.

30. I may mention in connexion with prisons that a new Ordinance for the purpose of consolidating and amending the different prison laws has just been passed by the Legislature.

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Legislation.

31. The most important Ordinance passed during the year 1886 was an Ordinance to make provision for granting pensions to widows and children of deceased public officers, a similar law to which exists in Ceylon, British Guiana, and some other Colonies.

32. Since I was called upon to administer the government in July last, I have taken every opportunity of visiting the public institutions in Port Louis and in the different districts of the Island. I have found them, on the whole, in a satisfactory condition, and few complaints were made to me from any of the inmates. Some of the hospitals seemed to be overcrowded, as was also the lunatic asylum, and I believe that there are several patients in the different hospitals who would be fitter subjects for a pauper asylum, if sufficient accommodation existed to receive them. The question of providing further accommodation for this purpose is now under the consideration of Government.

33. Many of the poor, more particularly pauper orphans and the patients at the Leper Asylum, are under the care of religious sisters or nuns, and too much praise cannot be accorded to these ladies for the interest, the kindness, and the attention shown by them to all who are entrusted to their custody.

34. In conclusion, I have only to express a hope that the financial condition of this Colony may improve. Mauritius has had in times gone by to tide over the waves of adversity, and there is no reason why she should not, by the industry and enterprise of her people, be able to do so again. That a return of financial prosperity may cause want and poverty to diminish, and happiness and contentment to increase, must be the earnest wish of all who take an interest in the welfare of this Island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. FLEMING.

The Right Hon.
Sir Henry T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT OF THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1886.

The net revenue of the year 1886 amounted to Rs. 152,858 against Rs. 143,829 in the preceding year, and the expenditure was Rs. 112,853 against Rs. 126,297.

The revenue of 1886 was the largest collected in Seychelles since 1880, and has only twice been exceeded in amount, viz., in 1880, when the receipts were Rs. 153,053, and in 1878 when they reached Rs. 155,914. It exceeded the estimated amount (Rs. 141,155) by Rs. 11,703.

The heads of revenue under which the principal increase over estimates was realised were the following:—

Quay dues.
Rent of Crown lands.
Licenses.
Dog tax.
Registration dues, and rum permits.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

Exports.

The exports exclusive of specie amounted to Rs. 246,470, showing an increase of Rs. 121,147 over those of 1885. This is chiefly due to the larger export of Colonial soap, vanilla, and cocoanut oil.

The amount of specie exported was Rs. 39,313, against Rs. 9,423 in the preceding year.

Imports.

The imports showed a decrease as compared with those of 1885. This was due in some measure to the smaller consumption of Mauritius rum in 1886, in consequence of a larger amount being distilled in the dependency.

The figures are as follows:—

	Rs.
1885 - - - - -	432,428
1886 - - - - -	409,326

Decrease in 1886, Rs. 23,102.

SEYCHELLES.

SHIPPING.

Fifty-two merchant vessels entered Port Victoria in 1886, including mail steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 104,594 tons.

Sixteen men-of-war visited the port during the year.

Their nationality was as follows:—

English	7
French	6
German	1
Italian	1
Portuguese	1

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The birth rate per thousand in the ward of Mahé was 35·50, against 36·16 in 1885.

The per-centage of still-births was 1·72, against 2·25 in 1885.

The death rate was 19·75, against 16·00 in the preceding year.

There were 173 marriages, against 198 in 1885.

No marriage *in articulo mortis* took place during the year.

In the ward of Praslin the birth rate was 44·00 per thousand, against 36·00 in 1885.

The still-births were 1·50 per cent., against 2·00 the year before.

The death rate was 20·50, against 16·50 in 1885.

24 marriages were celebrated, against 55 last year.

EDUCATION.

There were 20 schools in 1886 aided by Government grants, attended by 1,711 children, against 21 schools in 1885 attended by 1,742 children.

Twelve schools with 1,288 pupils are under the control of the Roman Catholic Mission, and nine schools with 423 pupils are managed by the Church of England. Several new schools have been opened by the Roman Catholic Mission during the year, but from the want of duly qualified teachers, or other causes, have not been admitted to participate in the grant-in-aid.

The amount voted for grant-in-aid in 1886 was Rs. 8,000, against Rs. 6,000 in 1885, and was apportioned as follows, viz.:—

	Rs.	c.
Roman Catholic Mission	6,212	43
Church of England	1,787	57
Total	8,000	00

JUDICIAL.

The total number of criminal cases entered during 1886 was 575, against 425 in 1885, and there were 528 convictions against 322.

The most numerous charges were those of drunkenness and disturbance, both showing a large increase as compared with the preceding year. There were 137 persons convicted of disturbance in 1886, against 79 in 1885, and 127 convictions for drunkenness against 50.

For possession of stolen property there were 18 convictions last year against 20 the year before, and for larceny 41 against 30. There was no case of murder or manslaughter during 1886.

The number of civil cases entered was 136, against 153 in 1885. In that year, however, 82 claims for local rate were classed as civil cases, whilst of these claims there were none in 1886. The totals, exclusive of claims for local rate, are therefore 136 against 71, showing a considerable increase in litigation during 1886.

Four appeals were entered in 1886, of which three were subsequently withdrawn, and one is still pending. In the last-mentioned case the District Judge reserved a case for the decision of the Supreme Court independently of the appeal.

Stipendiary Jurisdiction.

There were 120 cases entered before the Stipendiary Court in 1886, against 106 in 1885, and the number of persons charged was 137 against 130. 114 were sentenced in 1886, against 95 in 1885. There were 24 convictions for habitual idleness against 16 in 1885, and 3 persons were convicted of larceny against 1 in 1885. The most numerous charges were against Africans for failing to produce tickets. Of these there were 63 in 1886 (all convicted), against 44 charges and 39 convictions the year before.

There was one appeal from this Court in 1886, which was dismissed.

The engagements and discharges before the stipendiary magistrate were as under :—

	1885.	1886.
Engagements :—		
As labourers - - - -	90	41
As servants - - - -	47	27
Discharges - - - -	90	71

showing a great decrease in the number of engagements. This is partly owing to the prevalence of the "Moitié System," but also,

SEYCHELLES. I think, in great measure to the unsuitableness of the requirements of the Mauritius Labour Law (Ordinance 12 of 1878) as regards engagements to the circumstances of Seychelles.

GAOLS.

421 persons were committed to gaol in 1886, against 299 in 1885. There were 10 persons sentenced to one year or more, against 12 in 1885, and 432 persons sentenced to less than one year.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

The number of adherents of the two Churches supported by the Government in Seychelles is not shown separately from those of the other dependencies in the returns of the census taken in 1881.

The following number of ministers were employed in 1886:—

Roman Catholic Church.

Bishop	1
Priests in holy orders	13
Lay Brothers, Capuchins	4
Lay Brothers, Marists	5
Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny	22
Total	45

against 43 in 1885.

Church of England.

Civil chaplain	1
Assistant minister for Mahé	1
Minister of Praslin	1
Evangelists and catechists	9
Total	12

against 12 in 1885.

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS.

Roman Catholic.

Churches (permanent)	9
„ (temporary)	5
Chapels	4
Total	18

against 16 in 1885.

Church of England.

Churches - - - - -	3
Chapels (also used as schools) - - -	7
Total	10

against 10 in 1885.

HOSPITALS.

The number of persons treated in the civil hospital in 1886 was 184, against 107 in 1885, as follows:—

	1885.	1886.
Paupers - - - -	71	93
Prisoners - - - - -	24	56
Paying patients - - - -	12	35
Total - - - -	107	184

Of these 184 persons—

122 were discharged as cured.
20 „ „ relieved.
9 „ „ unrelieved.
7 died.
12 remaining at hospital at end of the year.

Total 184

Fourteen were sailors of H.M.S. "Briton," and were discharged at the request of their captain when the ship left Mahé.

Of the unrelieved three were lunatics sent to Mauritius, three were paupers sent to Curieuse Island, and three left the hospital at their own request.

The principal diseases were anæmia, rheumatism, ulcers, syphilis, and varicella.

296 persons were vaccinated in 1886 at the public hospital, and 59 at the outlying stations, in all 355.

DISPENSARY.

4,865 persons applied for medicines at the public dispensary in 1886, against 7,643 the year before.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The principal work performed during the year was the erection of the new court house, post office, &c. in Royal Street.

SEYCHELLES.

Victoria; this building is now almost completed and has been in use for some months.

General repairs were attended to and the cutter "Wave" re-coppered and thoroughly repaired.

Roads and Bridges.

The following wooden bridges have been constructed:—One 10 ft. by 8 at Barbaron; one 10 ft. by 13 in width at Anse Boileau; and one 10 ft. by 14 at Anse Louis.

The road between Barbaron and Anse Boileau was continued for 250 metres. Chaussées were commenced and partly constructed at Pointe la Rue and Anse aux Pins.

A sea wall measuring 107 feet in length was built from Victoria Pier to the mouth of the St. Louis River.

LEGISLATION.

The following regulations were passed by the Board of Civil Commissioners:—

No. 1 of 1886.—To prevent the introduction of hydrophobia.

No. 2 of 1886.—Concerning Government pilots and boarding officers.

No. 3 of 1886.—To prohibit the introduction of sugar canes from Mauritius.

No. 4 of 1886.—Estimates.

ARTHUR BARKLY,
Chief Civil Commissioner.

24th June 1887.

RODRIGUES.

REPORT ON THE ISLAND OF RODRIGUES FOR THE YEAR 1886.

I.

The receipts for the year 1886 amounted to Rs. 6,069.10, being a decrease of Rs. 518.93 compared with the year 1885. This is mainly due to the fact that Mr. Martin, the owner of the largest herd of cattle grazing on Crown lands, has not as yet paid the pasturage fees due on them last year, amounting to about Rs. 1,500, and also to the almost entire failure of the crops, owing to the disastrous effects of the cyclone of April last. Hardly half of the taxes were paid on that account. A slight decrease is shown under the headings: miscellaneous, including customs, dog tax, postage, fees of office, and an increase under the other headings, the principal being: land sales, registration dues, fines, forfeitures, and fees of court, and sales of Government property.

Receipts for past Two Years.

No.	Heads of Receipts.	1885.		1886.	
		Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1	Land sales and forest produce - - -	183	60	435	04
2	Miscellaneous (including Customs) - -	491	71	474	13
3	Land rent - - - - -	1,241	75	584	25
4	Pasturage - - - - -	1,695	50	841	00
5	Registration dues - - - -	12	52	171	05
6	Licenses (shop and game) - - -	1,095	00	1,145	00
7	Stamps - - - - - -	96	40	146	72
8	Taxes (horse and dogs) - - -	521	25	407	50
9	Postage - - - - - -	160	77	120	52
10	Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court - -	363	37	432	00
11	Fees of office - - - - -	13	13	12	25
12	Sale of Government property - - -	569	78	1,155	63
13	School fees - - - - -	143	25	144	01
	Total - - - -	6,588	03	6,069	10

RODRIGUES.

II.—EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure of last year amounted to Rs. 18,606.26, being Rs. 2,383.36 less than that of 1885. This amount includes only the payments made here, and not those made in England or in Mauritius on account of Rodrigues.

Mr. O'Halloran's leave of absence was extended by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the 17th September 1886 with half salary, and from that date to the 8th December following without salary.

Item 3 shows a decrease of Rs. 631.12 as compared with the previous year. Dr. Mifsud left this Island on leave of absence on the 21st May. He drew his full salary up to that date. Dr. Le Merle, who had been sent to replace him, arrived on the 6th April and remained in Rodrigues up to the 21st November. He drew half salary from the 12th April.

Item 6 shows also a decrease of Rs. 488 which is to be attributed to the fact that Mr. Armand, the new Gabriel schoolmaster, is on a much smaller scale of salary than Mr. Ambroisine, who was here before him. Further, Mr. Armand drew only half of his salary here, up to October last (inclusive), the other half being paid to his agent in Mauritius.

Only five months' house rent (Rs. 250) were paid to the Government Medical Officer, last year (Dr. Mifsud) Dr. Le Merle was provided with quarters.

Mr. and Mrs. Ternel, Government schoolmaster and sewing mistress, Port Mathurin, received only seven months' house rent (Rs. 210). From and after the 1st August they were provided with quarters. (Item 9.)

The expenditure incurred in repairing the Government buildings, including sanitary works, towing night-soil barge, rebuilding the Gabriel Government school, which had been blown down during the late hurricane, and building the quarters of the Government schoolmasters at Port Mathurin, amounted in all to the sum of Rs. 1687.71 (Items 14, 15, and 16.) By providing Mr. and Mrs. Ternel with a house, Government made a saving of Rs. 150 house rent last year, and will in the future save Rs. 360 per annum.

The sum of Rs. 465.71 was expended in repairing the Government life-boat and rebuilding the Government pinnace "Victoria," which were greatly damaged during the hurricane of April last. (Items 19 and 27.) The materials used for rebuilding the "Victoria" were in a great measure sent from Mauritius, the cost being as yet unknown to me.

A retiring allowance of Rs. 200.15 has been granted to ex-police constable William Waterstone from the 1st July last.

A sum of Rs. 590.75 has been expended for board and lodging supplied to Captain Macé and the distressed crew of the wrecked British schooner "Jane Bell," and also for their passage back to Mauritius. (Item 30.)

Item 35 shows an expenditure of Rs. 132.80 incurred in repairing the Government jetty and landing steps, Port Mathurin, the same having been all but destroyed during the late cyclone.

The services of the guardian to the Government model farm buildings were dispensed with at the end of May last.

Item 40 shows an expenditure of Rs. 70 incurred in buying a new night-soil barge to replace the former one, which disappeared during the late bad weather.

The last item shows an expenditure of Rs. 60 incurred in fitting up a boat which had to be sent to Mauritius in September last on urgent public business.

The new Roman Catholic priest of Rodrigues, Rev. H. J. Macdonald, arrived here in April last. He went to Mauritius in the month of August, and returned here after an absence of about six weeks. He drew eight months pay only in Rodrigues (Rs. 1333.28).

Expenditure for past Two Years.

No.	Heads of Expenditure.	1885.		1886.	
		Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1	Acting Civil Commissioner and police magistrate and postmaster	2,119	92	2,119	92
2	Roman Catholic priest	832	30	1,333	28
3	Government medical officer	1,999	92	1,368	80
4	Police, prison, and forest	4,370	72	4,522	84
5	Hospital servant	192	00	192	00
6	Schools' department	2,828	22	2,340	00
7	Scavengers	306	85	228	00
8	Rent allowance to Government medical officer	600	00	250	00
9	„ Schools' employés	373	00	210	00
10	„ Chief police officer	—		171	00
11	Meteorological observer	182	50	182	50
12	Clerical assistance to Civil Commissioner (including Peon)	440	00	480	00
13	School cleaning	156	00	156	00
14	Repairs to Government buildings, including sanitary works, and towing night-soil barge	740	03	487	71
15	Rebuilding Government school, Gabriel	—		700	00
16	Building schoolmaster's quarters (Port Mathurin)	—		500	00
17	Taxation of Crown witnesses	179	48	5	50
18	Prisoners' extra rations	17	12	9	36
19	Repairs to boats, &c.	56	77	118	28
20	Pilot fees	40	00	80	00
21	Travelling expenses to Civil Commissioner and Government medical officer	214	00	234	00
22	Rations, hospital servant, and scavengers	39	90	65	24
23	Hospital account ord. sick diets for patients, &c.	98	95	165	91
24	Fees to usher of Police Court	58	50	79	25
25	Post Office orders	712	27	353	87
26	Vaccination fees, Government medical officer	106	50	148	50
27	Rebuilding Government pinnace "Victoria"	—		347	43
28	Pension, ex-police constables Morris, Guillaume, and Waterstone	398	08	457	98
29	Various petty payments	110	81	126	20
30	Maintenance and passage of distressed seamen	1,335	50	590	75
31	Refund of fine	50	00	40	00
32	Capturing escaped prisoner	—		20	00

No.	Heads of Expenditure.	1885.		1886.	
		Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
33	Arrears of pension, ex-police constable Morris -	244	28	—	
34	Advance of salary to Mr. Tanguy (Public Works Department) - - - - -	—		60	00
35	Repairing Government jetty - - -	—		132	80
36	Extra boatmen for Health Officer and landing Government goods - - - -	38	75	26	09
37	Various expenses account "Harmonie" -	13	00	—	
38	Purchase of rice for prisoners and paupers -	180	00	—	
39	Hire of labourers for Government land surveyor (Mr. Hobbs) - - - - - -	63	25	—	
40	Passage of police and transport of furniture -	50	00	45	00
41	Salary acting Government medical officer, and house rent (Dr. Portal) - - -	1,360	00	—	
42	Passage of Dr. Mifsud and others in *re* Regina *v.* Barraut - - - - -	300	00	—	
43	Passage of Mrs. Wallis and children to Mauritius	60	00	—	
44	Guardian Government farm buildings - -	120	00	50	00
45	Purchase of a new night-soil barge (sanitary) -	—		70	00
46	For making 92 bags of lime for Government use - - - - - - -	—		36	80
47	For placing anchor and buoy N. entrance into harbour - - - - - -	—		41	25
48	Refund of expenditure for sending boat to Mauritius - - - - - -	—		60	00
	Total - - - - -	20,989	62	18,606	26

III.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

There were 109 cases tried before the police court during last year, showing an increase of 26 cases as compared with 1885.

No case was referred to the Court of Assizes.

Table of Cases tried in 1886.

Before what Court.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons charged or sued.	Number of Persons convicted or against whom judgment was given.	Number of Persons acquitted or with regard to whom cases were nonsuited or otherwise.
Criminal side - -	71	95	49	46
Civil side - - -	32	37	22	15
Stipendiary side -	6	7	7	Nil.
Total - -	109	139	78	61

IV.—Education.

The following table shows the number of pupils who attended the two Government schools during the last two years:—

Port Mathurin School.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1885 - - - -	78	57	73 per cent.
1886 - - - -	72	56	77⅞ „

Gabriel School.

Year.	Average No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Per-centage of Attendance on Roll.
1885 - - - -	65	58	80 per cent.
1886 - - - -	62	38	73 „

Cost of Port Mathurin School during past Two Years.

Particulars.	1885.	1886.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salary of teacher and sewing mistress -	1,709 92	1,560 00
House rent - - - - -	373 00	210 00
Allowance for cleaning in lieu of servant -	96 00	96 00
Total - - - -	2,178 92	1,866 00
Less school fees received - - -	142 25	144 01
Total cost of school - -	2,036 67	1,721 99

Mr. Ternel received his increment of Rs. 100, which brought his salary up to Rs. 1,200 per annum.

RODRIGUES.

Cost of Gabriel School for past Two Years.

Particulars.	1885.	1886.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Salary of teacher and sewing mistress -	1,178 30	780 00
Allowance for cleaning in lieu of servant -	60 00	60 00
Total - - - -	1,238 30	840 00
Less school fees received - - -	1 00	Nil.
Total cost of school - -	1,237 30	840 00

Note.—The total cost of schools appears in my books as being Rs. 840 only. But as a fact Mr. Armand's salary is Rs. 720 per annum, half of which was paid in Mauritius to his agent up to the end of October (inclusive) and the other half he drew here. He drew the whole of his salary in Rodrigues for November and December. So that the real cost of Gabriel School for last year is Rs. 1140.

V.—POST OFFICE.

Particulars.	1885.	1886.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1. Unpaid letters - - - -	7 92	4 48
2. Sale of postage labels - - -	85 62	77 07
3. Commission on money orders - -	67 23	38 97
Total - - -	163 17	120 52

Showing a decrease under the above heading of Rs. 42.65.

Money Orders in 1885 *and* 1886.

Particulars.	1885.	1886.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Drawn on Mauritius - - -	19,176 54	11,054 91
„ Rodrigues - - -	712 27	353 87

Showing a decrease of Rs. 8,121.63 on the amount of money orders drawn on Mauritius, and of Rs. 358.40 on the amount drawn on Rodrigues, as against the previous year.

Letters and Newspapers despatched and received during past Two Years.

Year.	Received.						Despatched.			
	Letters.			Newspapers.			Letters.			Newspapers and Books.
	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	Inland.	Foreign.	Total.	
1885 -	735	18	753	226	53	279	927	22	949	Nil
1886 -	891	14	905	722	Nil	722	728	17	738	Nil

VI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Government model farm buildings were removed to Port Mathurin and erected there for the use of the Government schoolmaster and sewing mistress, in order to save the Rs. 30 house rent per mensem hitherto paid to them. This work cost Government Rs. 500.

The Government school premises (Gabriel), which had been destroyed during the late hurricane, were rebuilt at a cost of Rs. 700.

Sundry other repairs and works (including sanitary) were executed last year, amounting to the sum of Rs. 367.71, plus towage of night-soil barge Rs. 120.

I may also mention that a sum of Rs 132.80 has been expended for repairing the Government landing jetty and steps which had been damaged by the late cyclone.

VII.—POPULATION.

On the 31st of December 1885 the population of this Dependency consisted of 1,687 souls, and on the 31st December 1886 of 1,769, showing an increase of 82 souls.

Population on 31st December 1885 -	-	-	1,687
Births in the year 1886 -	-	101	
Arrivals in 1886 -	-	40	
		—	141
Less deaths in 1886 -	-	24	
Departures -	-	35	
		—	59
Increase in 1886 -		-	82
			1,769

There were 7 marriages in 1886 and one still-birth.

RODRIGUES.

Classification of Population of past Two Years.

Year.	General Population.			Indian Population.			Total.		Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
1885 -	924	746	1,687	14	3	17	938	749	1,687
1886 -	963	789	1,769	17	—	17	980	789	1,769

Classification of Nationalities.

	1885.	1886.
Natives of America - - - -	1	2
„ Africa - - - -	8	8
„ Europe - - - -	4	4
„ India - - - -	17	17
„ Madagascar - - -	41	41
„ Mauritius - - - -	209	225
„ Réunion - - - -	2	2
„ Rodrigues - - -	1,398	1,463
„ Seychelles - - -	6	6
„ Siam - - - -	1	1
Total - - -	1,687	1,769

Table of Births, Deaths, &c. during past Two Years.

Year.	Births.			Deaths.			Arrivals.			Departures.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1885 - -	46	48	94	16	13	29	42	9	51	52	13	65
1886 - -	49	52	101	10	14	24	28	12	40	25	10	35

Calling.

Employed in agriculture - - -	900
„ in commerce - - -	8
„ as artizans - - -	14
„ as Government servants - -	17
„ in fisheries - - -	300
Other callings - - - -	130
Unemployed - - - -	400
Total -	1,769

The latter comprising women, children, and persons of which last twelve are paupers.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

No Ordinance or local regulation affecting especially this Dependency was passed last year in Council.

IX.— PRISONS AND POLICE.

The new prisons have not yet been built. Last year, on account of there being no female prison ward, two women who had been sentenced to imprisonment, one on a charge of being found in unlawful possession of stolen property, and the other on a charge of adultery, were of necessity left at large. I was obliged to write to his Excellency explaining the matter to him and requesting that he might be pleased to remit the sentence in both cases, as I could not, without the grossest breach of decency, shut these women up in the only room used as a prison, and which was then occupied by male prisoners.

Consequent upon the retiring of police constables Waterstone and Castel from the force, his Excellency the Governor has been pleased to decide that three Indian constables would be sent here to replace them. However, this very useful measure has not as yet been carried into effect.

Mr. Charles Mason, who has been appointed to replace Mr. James Wallis as chief police officer, arrived here and assumed his functions on the 6th April last.

X.—ESTABLISHMENT.

Cost of Establishment for past Two Years.

Year.	Salaries.	Allowances.	Total.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1885 - - -	12,650 93	1,751 50	14,402 43
1886 - - -	12,104 84	1,278 50	13,382 94

Decrease Rs. 1,019.49 as against 1885.

XI.—TRADE.

Estimated Value of Imports and Exports for last Two Years.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1885 - - - -	82,308 00	106,116 00
1886 - - - -	59,167 40	44,678 00

Showing a large decrease under both headings.

XII.—GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

Dr. Henry Mifsud, Government Medical Officer, Rodrigues, left this Island in May last on leave of absence. He was to have left on the 15th of the previous month but for the wreck of the schooner "Jane Bell." Dr. Henry Le Merle, who had arrived on the 6th April to replace him, took over duties on the 12th. Dr. Mifsud, being unable to leave on the 15th, wrote to me stating that he considered himself still on active service, as his leave was to be spent out of this Island and also as he was to draw half salary from the date of his departure only. So that he drew full salary up to the 22nd May, although Dr Le Merle had to be paid concurrently with him during that period on the scale of Rs. 1,000 per annum.

In October 1885 I was instructed to give Dr Mifsud (from and after the 1st January 1886) the quarters formerly occupied by the Chief Police Officer (Mr. C. Wallis) instead of paying the doctor Rs. 600 house rent per annum. Against this decision Dr. Mifsud protested. On 31st December 1885, I was requested to continue paying house allowance to Dr. Mifsud until further orders.

Table showing Number of Patients treated during 1885 *and* 1886.

Year.	In-Patients.			Out-Patients of both Sexes.	Grand Total.	Prevailing Diseases among Patients.
	Males.	Females.	Total.			
1885 -	19	4	23	841	864	Synority, abscess, malarial fever, lymphitis, orchitis, delirium tremens, cerebral hæmorrhage, neuralgia, concussion of spine, wound, ovaritis, fracture of femur, burns, pleuritis, indigestion, hæmorrhoides, old age, enteric fever, worms, and diarrhœa.
1886 -	20	5	25*	589	614	

* For various periods.

Year.	Receipts on account of In-Patients.	Total of Expenditure on account of Hospital.	Cost of Hospital and Dispensary, exclusive of Medicines.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1885 - - -	53 50	4,483 67	4,430 17
1886 - - -	22 75	2,108 45	2,085 70

There is a decrease of Rs. 2,344.47 on the amount of expenditure of hospital for 1886 as compared with the previous year.

I must, however, add that a yearly sum of Rs. 360 is paid in Mauritius for the rent of a house used as hospital, and further, that Dr. Mifsud has been allowed to draw his half salary from the 22nd May.

Total cost to Government of each patient, both in hospital and dispensary, for past two years (as per Rodrigues books) :—

	Rs. c.
1885 - - - - -	5 56
1886 - - - - -	3 39

XIII.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

A very severe cyclone struck this Island during the night of the 15th to the 16th of April last, causing great damage to property.

Towards the latter end of September we felt a slight touch of earthquake.

Up to the month of July last the meteorological observations were taken by Police Sergeant Aston, and since then by Mr. Mason, chief police officer, who has replaced Mr. Wallis. These observations have been duly transmitted to Dr. Meldrum.

XIV.—SHIPWRECKED AND DISTRESSED SEAMEN.

During the hurricane of last year, the Colonial British schooner "Jane Bell," belonging to Mr. P. Raffaut, was lost on the S.E. reefs of Port Mathurin. The cost of maintenance of her distressed captain and crew, along with that of their passage to Mauritius, amounted to Rs. 590.75.

XV.—PORT MATHURIN HARBOUR.

This harbour has not yet been provided with the anchors and anchor lighter for which the Council of Government has

RODRIGUES. voted the necessary funds ever since 1885; without these, the ships which visit this harbour can hardly be said to be safe.

A buoy was sent last year to be placed at the N.E. entrance into the outer harbour. But it was a very old thing, and a few weeks after it had been fixed at that spot it went to the bottom, and could not as yet be recovered. Nor has a new one been sent to replace it up to this time.

On the 28th July H.M. ship "Bacchante," with Admiral Sir Frederick Richards on board, accompanied by three other men-of-war, the "Turquoise," the "Reindeer," and the "Mariner," visited this harbour. They remained six days here.

XVI.—DROUGHT AND FAMINE.

The hurricane of April last, which, within the memory of the oldest inhabitant of the place, is the severest one which ever struck this Island, was followed by almost a continual drought. The state of affairs began to assume a very alarming aspect towards the month of August, when it became evident that the crops would fail. Nor was it a vain surmise. The beans harvest was not one third of what it had been the previous year. As regards the sweet potatoes, manioc, maize, which are the staple food of the inhabitants, hardly any could be had.

The stock of rice in the Island being nearly exhausted at the beginning of September, and the ship being late, a meeting of the principal inhabitants took place in the Police Court Hall, at which it was resolved that a boat should be sent to Mauritius to ask for immediate relief. The Government pinnace "Victoria" being then unfit for sea, another boat, the private property of the Civil Commissioner, was fitted up. The Government pilot, Mr. Vandorous, consented to take charge of this perilous expedition; he was assisted by Police Sergeant Aston, by one Genave, and by one Barthelemy Prudence, who bravely volunteered to follow him.

They left on the 11th September with despatches from the Civil Commissioner and reached Mauritius after a three days' passage during which they narrowly escaped with their lives. The gallant conduct of these men is beyond all praise. The Government of Mauritius responded quickly to the appeal of this starving population, and on the 19th September the steam tug "Stella" steamed into this harbour with a cargo of 350 bags of rice. But this supply was soon exhausted. On the 21st December following, the "Hattonburn" arrived with another cargo of 1,000 bags of rice sent by the Government to be sold to the inhabitants. A population of 1,700 souls has been saved from the dire consequences of famine, owing to the prompt action taken in this matter by Sir John Pope Hennessy, and for this he cannot be too much thanked.

XVIII.—Sundry Remarks.

This Island is slowly recovering from the disastrous effects of the late hurricane and of the drought which followed it. The plantations look very promising. I firmly hope that the people will be able to retrieve their losses this year, and that as a consequence the arrears due to the Government for taxes, and also the rice advanced to them, will soon be paid in.

The sanitary condition of the Island was very satisfactory considering the circumstances mentioned above, and the absence of the Government Medical Officer from Rodrigues ever since November last, has not been too much felt. There were only 24 deaths during last year against 29 in 1885.

A. Boucherat,
Acting Civil Commissioner
and Police Magistrate.

Civil Commissioner's Office,
Rodrigues, 31st March 1887.

No. 3.

GAMBIA.

GAMBIA.

[For reference to previous Reports, *see* 1885 [C.—5071]; 1884 [C.—4842]; 1883 [C.—4404]; 1882 [C.—4015]; 1881 [C.—3642]; 1880 [C.—3094].]

Report on the Blue Book for 1886.

Sir S. ROWE to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

Government House, Bathurst,
October 22, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith (in duplicate) the Gambia Blue Book for the year 1886, together with a report on it which Mr. Blackburn has been good enough to furnish to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,
Governor-in-Chief.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G., M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Mr. BLACKBURN to GOVERNOR-IN CHIEF.

Government House, Bathurst,
October 18, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith (in duplicate) the Gambia Blue Book for 1886, and beg to offer the following remarks on the returns furnished by the various departments in the Settlement:—

Taxes, &c.

There was no change in the Customs tariff, or in other ordinances imposing taxation, during the year 1886.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year was estimated at 23,817*l.* 9*s.* The amount realised was 14,232*l.* 15*s.* or 9,574*l.* 14*s.* less than had been hoped for. The following table shows under heads of service the amounts collected in 1885 and in 1886:—

TABLE A.

Comparative Statement of Revenue for 1885 *and* 1886.

Heads of Service.	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	15,670 7 10	10,323 16 8	—	5,346 11 2
Licenses	976 0 0	780 0 0	—	196 0 0
Rents, exclusive of land	542 16 10	606 18 4	64 1 6	—
Fines, forfeitures, &c.	349 13 0	313 8 10	—	36 4 2
Land revenue	500 18 9	433 1 10	—	67 16 11
Miscellaneous receipts	170 12 6	211 6 10	40 14 4	—
Reimbursements in aid	207 13 2	100 7 9	—	107 5 5
Postal revenue	460 10 2	513 12 11	53 2 9	—
Special receipts	20 6 6	27 19 0	7 12 6	—
Fees of office	156 6 3	108 7 8	—	47 18 7
Auction duty	14 12 8	16 1 10	1 9 2	—
Interest	818 15 3	777 18 2	—	40 17 1
Arrears of previous year	347 8 10	19 15 2	—	327 13 8
Total	20,236 1 9	14,232 15 0	167 0 3	6,170 7 0

showing a total decline of revenue as compared with the former year of 6,170*l.* 7*s.*

Of this it will be observed no less than 5,346*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* was deficit in the Customs receipts, of which the following table gives the comparisons in detail with 1885:—

TABLE B.

Comparative Statement of Customs Revenue paid into the Colonial Treasury during the undermentioned Years.

Heads of Receipts.	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Breech-loading guns and pistols	9 0 0	4 0 0	—	5 0 0
Other firearms	936 0 0	208 8 0	—	727 12 0
Malt liquor	137 11 4	93 0 0	—	44 11 4
Gunpowder	339 19 9	46 2 11	—	293 16 10
Claret	766 11 7	383 0 7	—	383 11 0
Other wines	57 15 10	36 7 11	—	21 7 11
Spirit, unsweetened	2,165 12 10	1,363 2 6	—	802 10 4
Brandy	83 16 10	71 11 1	—	12 5 9
Sugar	436 2 9	368 8 6	—	67 14 3
Salt	256 18 4	299 16 4	42 18 0	—
Tobacco, unmanufactured	2,181 2 11	2,684 2 1	502 19 2	—

Heads of Receipts.	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tobacco, manufactured, and cigars -	73 3 11	107 16 3	34 12 4	—
Cola nuts - - - - -	1,972 2 4	1,186 12 9	—	785 9 7
Kerosine - - - - - -	44 18 1	119 3 0	74 4 11	—
Export duty on ground nuts - -	4,154 2 7	2,018 7 0	—	2,135 15 7
Warehouse rent - - -	169 17 3	169 19 8	0 2 5	—
Tonnage - - - - - -	1,257 6 0	887 13 0	—	369 13 0
Pilotage - - - - - -	299 2 0	195 0 0	—	104 2 0
License fee erroneously paid in -	—	5 10 0	5 10 0	—
Total - -	15,670 7 10	10,323 16 8	660 6 10	6,006 18 0

From this return it will be observed that the export of ground nuts, the staple article of produce of the Settlement, had declined by more than one half, a fact of sinister significance in a country devoid of manufactures, and consequently almost entirely dependent on the export of its produce for existence.

The only dutiable articles of import which show an increase are salt to an inappreciable extent, and tobacco and kerosine to a considerable extent; but the import of these latter articles was increased by the action of one firm only under circumstances which may be regarded as accidental and by no means as indicating a revival of trade.

The expenditure for the year was estimated at 23,795*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*, and actually amounted to 23,352*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*, or 442*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* less than the estimate. The following table shows under heads of service the differences between the estimated and actual expenditure:—

TABLE C.

Return showing actual and estimated Expenditure.

Heads of Service.	Expenditure provided by Ordinance dated 30th December 1885.	Actual Expenditure, 1886.	Excess provided for by Supplementary Ordinance.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Establishments - - - -	14,973 6 5	14,300 16 1	—
Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities.	1,169 10 11	1,167 10 10	—
Revenue services, exclusive of establishments.	160 0 0	153 19 3	—
Administration of justice, exclusive of establishments.	87 0 0	233 4 1	146 4 1
Charitable allowances - - -	205 0 0	181 7 0	—
Education, exclusive of establishments	300 0 0	261 8 6	—
Hospital, exclusive of establishments -	460 0 0	309 10 1	—
Police and gaols, exclusive of establishments.	835 0 0	1,261 16 9	426 16 9

Heads of Service.	Expenditure provided by Ordinance dated 30th December 1885.	Actual Expenditure, 1886.	Excess provided for by Supplementary Ordinance.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rent	10 0 0	11 9 0	1 9 0
Transport	475 0 0	786 2 1	311 2 1
Conveyance of mails	1,200 0 0	900 1 6	—
Works and buildings	935 0 0	1,227 13 2	292 13 2
Roads, streets, and bridges	747 7 6	488 13 3	—
Miscellaneous services	957 0 0	1,196 19 6	239 19 6
Government vessels, exclusive of establishments.	82 0 0	22 10 8	—
Aborigines	545 0 0	444 10 11	—
Drawback and refund of duties	320 0 0	257 8 2	—
Special services	Not provided for.	—	—
Treasury and Post Office	334 0 0	147 14 6	—
Total	23,795 4 10	23,352 15 4	1,418 4 7

I append a further table showing the differences under heads of service between the expenditure of 1885 and that of 1886.

TABLE D.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1885 *and* 1886.

Heads of Service.	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries, fixed	11,969 0 9	11,476 17 11	—	492 2 10
„ provisional and temporary	1,062 0 5	1,696 2 7	634 2 2	—
Allowances	542 1 10	461 11 1	—	80 10 9
Contingencies	115 0 5	124 16 11	9 16 6	—
Pensions, &c.	932 0 7	878 5 1	—	53 15 6
Revenue services, exclusive of establishments.	1,152 5 9	150 15 3	—	1,001 10 6
Administration of justice, exclusive of establishments.	104 10 6	229 19 1	125 8 7	—
Charitable allowances	185 6 9	176 14 0	—	8 12 9
Hospitals, exclusive of establishments.	253 5 11	303 16 10	50 10 11	—
Police and gaols, exclusive of establishments.	804 19 11	1,256 4 0	451 4 11	—
Rent	5 10 10	10 6 10	4 16 0	—
Transport	676 6 6	759 2 4	82 15 10	—
Conveyance of mails	400 0 0	100 1 6	—	299 18 6

GAMBIA.

Heads of Service.	1885.	1886.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Works and buildings - - -	3,552 13 5	1,223 15 4	—	2,328 18 1
Roads, streets, and bridges - -	455 9 4	488 13 3	33 3 11	—
Miscellaneous services - - -	989 12 8	1,115 10 6	125 17 10	—
Government vessels, exclusive of establishments.	118 9 6	22 10 8	—	95 18 10
Aborigines - - - -	418 9 10	332 19 3	—	85 10 7
Drawback, &c. - - - -	249 16 11	257 8 2	7 11 3	—
Treasury and Post Office, exclusive of establishments.	227 10 6	145 15 2	—	81 15 4
Special services - - - -	880 1 7	—	—	880 1 7
Arrears of previous year - -	1,500 2 11	2,141 8 9	641 5 10	—
Total - -	26,594 16 10	23,352 15 4	2,166 13 9	5,408 15 3

From this it will be observed that in 1886 the total expenditure was less than that of 1885 by 3,242*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* Of this, however, 2,328*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* is a decrease in expenditure on "works and buildings," and it is to be feared that this may prove not to be an actual saving, but merely deferred expenditure to be paid hereafter, possibly with interest.

Military Expenditure.

There is no military force maintained in the Settlement. The Settlement depends for its defence on the ships of Her Majesty's Navy, whose visits are, however, infrequent and irregular.

Public Works.

No new public works of any kind were undertaken during the year, and expenditure on the maintenance of existing buildings was confined to the lowest point to which shift could be made to reduce it.

Legislation.

Twelve Ordinances were passed by the Local Legislature during the year.

Civil Establishments.

Captain J. S. Hay was appointed Administrator, and arrived to take up the government of the Settlement on the 7th February 1886. The Government had been administered temporarily, prior to his arrival, by Mr. Carter, the treasurer, who was again called on to perform this duty on the 12th June, when Captain Hay proceeded to Sierra Leone to relieve the Governor-in-Chief

Education.

The condition of education in the Gambia was perhaps less unsatisfactory than in the previous year. It is to be hoped that the slight progress made is the first step of continuous advance in the right direction. With regard to existing schools I have nothing to add to the very full report of the Sub-Inspector of Schools; but it is right that I should remark that, while the Joluf and other residents of Senegalais or French descent or connexion, have the advantage of the schools of the Roman Catholic Mission, and the immigrants from Sierra Leone of those of the Wesleyan Mission and Church of England, the Mahommedan natives of the Gambia and surrounding districts, who form the bulk of the population and of the taxpayers, have no assisted school to which they can send their children, and have no means of educating them beyond chance opportunities of learning to write a few words of imperfect Arabic, and to repeat, perhaps, a few verses of the Koran by rote. It is, I think, indubitable that this is a lamentable condition, and injurious at once to the best interests of the people and of the Government.

Gaols.

At the commencement of the year there were 46 prisoners in the gaol. During the year 113 were admitted, 114 were discharged in due course, one escaped, and three died. There were, therefore, 41 left in gaol at the close of the year. There were 49 punishments inflicted by the visiting justice during the year, of which six were corporal punishments. In two cases corporal punishment was inflicted on juvenile prisoners as part of the sentence of the Court.

Criminal Statistics.

These show the condition of the Settlement to have been normal in this respect, and call for no special remark.

Imports and Exports.

The following observations may prove of interest as bearing on the condition of the commerce of the Settlement:—

Imports.

The value of the imports in the year was 69,508*l.*, the imports in 1885 (a year of great depression in trade) having been of the value of 92,234*l.* There was, therefore, a decrease of 22,626*l.*

Cotton goods were imported to the value of 2,128*l.*, as against 13,499*l.* in the previous year and 50,784*l.* in 1884, which was approximately the average value of the annual import for several years previously.

GAMBIA.

Colah nuts, 293,723 lbs., valued at 9,495*l.*, were imported, as against 497,258 lbs., valued at 21,585*l.*, imported in 1885, showing a decrease in the import of this article of 203,535 lbs. quantity and 12,090*l.* value.

Tobacco, 183,064 lbs. of all kinds, as against 181,416 lbs. in 1885, shows an increase of 1,648 lbs.

Spirits, 24,076 gallons, as compared with 39,350 gallons in previous year.

Wines, 13,313 gallons, as compared with 12,585 gallons in 1885.

Salt, 1,214 tons, against 980 in 1885 and 1,252 in 1884.

Sugar, 41,898 lbs., as against 84,482 lbs. in 1885 and 150,698 lbs. in 1884.

Gunpowder, 171 barrels of 100 lbs., as compared with 260 in 1885, 760 in 1884, and 1,114 in 1883.

In the minor articles of general importation a proportionate decline is observable, which is owing to the stagnation of trade resulting from the suspension of cultivation consequent on the existence of internecine war in some of the districts on which the Settlement is mainly dependent for the export of produce.

Exports.

The returns again show a considerable decrease of the staple export of the Settlement, 5,996 tons of *ground nuts* only, valued at 38,174*l.*, having been exported, as compared with 12,353 tons in 1885 and 18,404 tons in 1884.

Hides have been exported to the value of 7,765*l.*, as against 7,280*l.* in 1885.

Rubber has been exported to the value of 11,426*l.*, as compared with 2,670*l.* in 1885 and 23,213*l.* in 1884, prior to which year there was no export of this article. Great hopes are entertained in respect of the development of the trade in rubber to compensate for the failure in other articles of export.

The total value of exports for the year amounts to 79,516*l.*, which exceeds the value of the imports by 10,008*l.*, but shows a sad decline as compared with the value of 119,385*l.* exported in 1884 and an average of over 200,000*l.* exported in several preceding years.

Shipping.

The returns show a decrease of 1,780 tons in sailing vessels and 11,733 tons in steam vessels visiting this port as compared with 1885.

Hospitals.

Five patients were in the hospital at the commencement of the year and 187 were admitted during the year, bringing the number of patients treated up to 192, of whom 171 were males and 21 females.

There is no lunatic asylum at the Gambia. Cases of lunacy which require to be dealt with by the Government are sent to the asylum at Sierra Leone.

Meteorological Observations.

The recorded rainfall was 54·15 inches. The atmospheric observations were not taken as there is no expert in the Settlement, nor could the temperature be recorded in the absence of proper instruments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. G. BLACKBURN.

His Excellency
The Governor-in-Chief of the
West Africa Settlements.

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